Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-93-001 *4 January 1993*

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Cuba

Dissident Elizardo Sanchez Released on Bail

PA0101190493 Paris AFP in Spanish 1828 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Havana, 1 Jan (AFP)—Dissident sources in Havana announced on 1 January that Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz, president of the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation (CDHRN) who was arrested on 10 December, was released on bail on 28 December.

The same sources added that Sanchez, who was charged with "disrespect" for the law, was mistreated during his time in custody, according to his relatives and the CDHRN.

The Cuban news agency PRENSA LATINA reported that the CDHRN president was arrested for "disrupting public order when he attempted to distribute propaganda against the Cuban socialist state."

Sanchez Santa Cruz, who is also a member of another dissident group, the Cuban Democratic Socialist Current, has been detained several times in recent years.

Raul Castro Meets With Visiting Soviet Marshals

FL0201032193 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and Revolutionary Armed Forces minister, met at Minfar [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces] headquarters on 1 January with Marshals Sokolov and Kulikov of the Soviet Union, who are on a visit to our country. During the meeting, Raul explained to the guests the efforts being made by the entire Cuban people to overcome the difficult economic situation the country is confronting as a result of the double embargo to which it is being subjected and the most recent intensification of this embargo. The meeting took place in a cordial, friendly atmosphere. Major General Ulises Rosales del Toro, who is the FAR minister's first vice minister and also chief of the General Staff, and relatives of Major Generals (Sokolov) and (Kulikov) also participated in the meeting.

Robaina Delivers 'Yes for Cuba' Rally Speech

FL0101022093 Havana Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0200 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Speech by Roberto Robaina at the Union of Young Communists political rally commemorating the 34th anniversary of the Triumph of the Revolution in Revolution Square in Havana on 31 December—live]

[Text] Special young people, special people of Cuba, very special revolutionaries, extraordinary commander in chief: Together, all generations of Cubans have passed through a tremendously difficult year with extraordinary heroism. No one has lost either his smile or his optimism, even though we have had to tighten our belts. We have lacked, and may lack in the future, many things; but we have had more than enough of the main things: the dignity and pride of knowing ourselves to be more Cuban every day. [Crowd cheers]

This has been a year during which the virtues of this revolutionary people have shone as in no other year. They were asked to accomplish a feat, and they have accomplished more than a feat. And if asked to duplicate that feat, they will be capable of doing so without hesitation.

It is therefore not a matter of a special period, but rather, a matter of a special population, a people capable of facing the most difficult trials with optimism, and emerging victorious. If before we used to admire the glorious feats of the past and often dreamed of imitating them; and if we have sometimes felt nostalgic, sorry not to have lived in the time of Marti and Gomez, we are now sure Marti and Gomez would feel admiration for these shining times and would have wanted to share, with pride and alongside today's Cubans, this campaign of courage. The youth of Cuba feel proud and legitimate for having the spirit of the Mambises and of our rebels, for being deeply pro-Fidel, and for belonging to a people who will never raise the white flag of surrender. [crowd applauds, cheers, chants]

Glorious were the Cubans of the 19th Century! As glorious as they are the Cubans of this century, and as glorious will be the generations that, born during these years, will transit, astonishing history, the 21st Century. No full-fledged revolutionary has stood by with folded arms. We have gone out seeking solutions to the situation we are experiencing and we are finding, daily, formulas with which to overcome, resources to exploit, and new paths to travel. In the 366 days of this year, the talent of our scientists and technicians has shown itself to be inexhaustible. Our workers' initiatives with a view to keeping equipment running has shone more brightly still. Everyone has been impressed with our sugarworkers' determination to effect an exceptional sugar harvest. Our sports and arts champions have revitalized patriotism and joie de vivre. The mothers of Cuba have been a brilliant rearguard—these silent heroines of this campaign, who accomplish the small domestic feat of putting food on our tables daily with few resources but much imagination. [crowd applauds, cheers]

Each and every person deserves his own medal this year. Everyone deserves to be applauded. Everyone deserves recognition, at a moment when we all insist on saying, as if we were a single man, Yes for Cuba! [crowd chants: Yes for Cuba!]

Nevertheless, there are people who, from abroad, look upon us as if we were a species on the road to extinction. They look upon us as something unusual. Even to those who sympathize with our cause, it seems incredible we still exist. At a moment when everything leads one to

believe that the world has given in to a power that exercises unipolarism; at a time when many of the rebels of yesterday are falling into line like sheep along the path traced by the United States, people are still asking themselves what this little country is doing, still obstinately marching along its own path. We say to them, simply, that we removed the terms surrender, pessimism, abandonment of principles, and discouragement from the dictionary of our lives a long time ago. Those terms were not yesterday, are not today, and will indeed never be Cuban revolutionary terms. [crowd applauds, cheers, whistles]

Our enemies too are astonished; and, as is natural, indignant. They cannot accept our being here. What they do not know, or do not want to understand, is that we are going to continue to be here. We will continue to be here for a long time.

The years will pass, and greyer will become the heads of the counterrevolutionary worms who have, for the past 34 years, been harboring dreams about the unattainable objective of returning to a Cuba without socialism. Those people, like dark swallows, will never return. They will have to live with their unsatisfied desire to tread Cuban soil, as Mr. Bush has. As for Mr. Bush, in order to allay his frustration and if his government authorizes it, we can invite him to Cuba for a week to see, up close, the beautiful toughness of this people that he was unable to vanquish and these young people he was unable to buy. [crowd cheers, applauds]

However, the invitation could be for the "Yes for Cuba" of 1996! Because now the enemies, in view of the defeat suffered, have a new theory: That we will fall in 1995, they say. They feel increasingly uncertain. The oracles keep missing the mark. In order to not feel foolish in the short run, they keep pushing back their calculations—although they do not sit down to wait. To be more certain still, they contribute their little push. They pressure people here and there, people who want to trade with Cuba. They meddle with businessmen and governments and threaten, issue warnings, and outdo themselves in the not-at-all decorous role of international blackmailers.

What a ridiculous role for those officials! What an embarrassing, odious, despicable role! What a new frustration they are going to suffer! Because we are not a revolution standing alone. We are, in fact, a revolution in good company. This very year, in the very heart of the empire, the Pastors for Peace breached the Yankee embargo, just as the Yes for Cuba solidarity organization is doing among the fraternal people of Mexico; and as the progressive forces of Spain are doing; and as our friends from India have done; or as those small, heroic, and a-thousand-times-over friendly people of Vietnam have done; and the way so very many friends of Cuba are doing all over the world. We can accept these donations with our heads held high because we ourselves have shown, and continue to show, solidarity toward the rest of the world.

We do not blush at receiving the help given us by the humble of the world, who often collect their loving donations penny by penny. We have sown solidarity and are now reaping solidarity. Every ounce of help that reaches us equals a thousand tons of hope, a thousand tons of affection, and a thousand tons of encouragement to continue to seek our own solutions.

Cowards are not looked upon with admiration. The world respects only those who fight back, because only they have a right to triumph. Marti said it over a century ago: There are nations of bats, and good examples of bats among all nations, people who live in the shadows and are kings of their shadows. But one shuts one's doors in vain to the beautiful light that shines through walls.

Not long ago, some foreign journalists assured me we were surviving thanks solely to the embargo [bloqueo]. They said we had won solidarity thanks solely to the embargo, and that if the embargo were to cease, we would fall. At least they acknowledge that we are blockaded [bloqueados]. They acknowledge our adversary's immorality, cruelty, and brutality.

So, then, the best thing they can do is demand that the adversary remove the embargo. Let them leave Guantanamo. Let them leave us alone. Let the threats cease. Let there be an end to the support for the mercenaries based in Florida. And let them stop harassing us.

If they are so confident that we are going to fall, let them do these things. However, in 30 years, the Yankee governments do not seem to have ever been sure this would happen. If they really believed we would fall were they to lift the embargo, we would never have been embargoed in the first place. Remember, the Yankees did not come up with this when the socialist bloc fell; rather, they came up with it when Batista fell.

Now, according to those journalists themselves, it turns out that we are united thanks to the United States; that we have to thank the United States for our unity! This unity, gentlemen of the press, we owe first and foremost to this people's roots, to the highly admirable history of this people—against which hundreds of lies and a torrent of infamies are written daily in an attempt to bury the great truth that the Revolution today constitutes. If one goes by this propaganda by the news monopolies, it turns out that the world is a paradise and Cuba is a hell. The truth is that the world is not as good as all that and Cuba is not Satan. We are neither as bad as they make us out to be nor as good as we would like to be. We are not hiding from anyone the fact that we are facing difficulties and shortages. However, when we look at the world around us; when we read about what happens in other countries that were formerly socialist and have been thrown to the voraciousness of capitalism, we simply cannot fail to feel sorry for those peoples who allowed their future to be snatched away from them. That is how our enemies and their buddies want to make this people return to capitalism! On a night like tonight, this Yes for Cuba night, one wonders: If that society—in which there

were 14 political parties—was so good, why was not a single one of those parties able to prevent a ferocious dictatorship like Batista's, a dictatorship that murdered hundreds of thousands of Cubans, using democracy as a pretext, from taking root?

Why did that so highly praised and much blessed capitalist society have so much unemployment, so much poverty, so much illiteracy, so many beggars wandering the streets, and so much racial and sexual discrimination? If that society was as admirable as it is made out to be, why did 95 percent of the population get only as far as the sixth grade in school? Why were there not over 15,000 students enrolled in universities? Why did these university students have a choice of only 25 majors, while in our society—which according to them must disappear—we have 200,000 students registered in higher education, with 150 majors?

If that capitalist society was so great that we should never have abandoned it, why did it have one doctor for every 1,076 inhabitants, while today we have one doctor for every 252 inhabitants? If that capitalist society we left was so great, why did approximately 70 infants die per 1,000 live births, while today we in this society they call a failure have brought down the infant mortality rate to only 10 per 1,000 live births? To the point where thousands of the lives rescued throughout these years are here in this square also shouting: Yes for Cuba! [Crowd applauds]

If that capitalist society was so noble and generous, why did our fathers rise up in arms and defeat forever that government of murderers that the same capitalist society gave rise to? If that society was such a just society, a society so praiseworthy, why did we not have, as we have now, dozens of Central American, Panamerican, and Olympic champions? If we should never have lost that capitalist society, why were so many fine minds and so many scientists wasted in it? If that society was better, why was so much artistic talent frustrated due to lack of schools and encouragement, left out in the darkness of a wilderness, or having to perform in the streets while begging?

There are always dreamers who might think capitalism in Cuba would have solved these problems, in these same 34 years. We ask those who think that way to just take a look at the continent that has kept this capitalism during these same 34 years and whose situation is today worse—in every way—than it was back then. We would have to ask ourselves many questions and give ourselves many more answers.

Do not think for a minute that this is a nation of sheep; that this is a submissive people, a nation of fools who do not know the universe in which they live. This nation has shaken out of its head this empire business, Spanish colonialism and Yankee colonialism! In the 1930's our grandparents shook loose the power of Machado's dictatorship, and in the 1950's Batista's dictatorship. No one helped the Cubans remove from on top of them the government they did not want.

The only difference between that history and current history is that this government we do want! The enormous difference is that we ourselves constitute the Revolution, and we are ready to defend with our strength this Revolution, which is ourselves; this party that unites us; and this Fidel who is incapable of backing down [inclaudicable], who fills us with pride and encourages us! [crowd cheers, applauds, chants]

Yes, you gentlemen who desire our ruin, we want a single party—but a single party with 11 million thinking heads; a single party with 11 million people with standards of judgment, opinions, ideas, and their own thoughts, but all determined to seek solutions to our own problems. We will all emerge from this situation together, with or without power outages, because we have reason to light our way; because we have the courage that provides its own light; and, as Pablo [Milanes, songwriter and singer] says: That which generates its own light cannot be switched off. [crowd applauds]

We will never be able to forget that Marti wrote shining pages by the light of a candle, and forged in the shadows a nation based on his thoughts. We have just finished holding exemplary elections. We did not spend $300 million as did the millionaire candidates of the United States. Our elections were elections with poor candidates. No millionaire ran for office. No big landowner, no property owner, no capitalist. We are one of the few countries in the world where pro-imperialists, capitalists, or exploiters do not run for office; and where the poor have a right to participate and make decisions in their legislature.

The coming year will be difficult—perhaps harder than this one; but we are not afraid of it. Our Yes for Cuba is the ratification of the path we have chosen. When we say Yes for Cuba, we are also saying: [crowd shouts along with Robaina] Fatherland or Death! [crowd cheers]

When we say Yes for Cuba, we are saying: We will win! [crowd cheers, applauds] When we say Yes for Cuba, we are saying: Nay to the USA, nay to neoliberalism, and nay to capitalism!

These are difficult times, but we are willing to face them. Some may wonder ... [interrupted by applause, chanting] [repeats] Some may wonder why we have not mentioned the Torricelli Bill tonight—that monstrosity, which dwarfs even the evil of Fatima [crowd cheers] because it will do anything to put an end to our Revolution! Do you think that after the resounding defeat it suffered in the UN voting, the Torricelli Bill is even worth mentioning at this Yes for Cuba gathering? [crowd shouts: No!]

No doubt about it: Torricelli—because the world has thus already decided it—is worth nothing. Speaking of evil, now the campaigns about violation of human rights are back! Who is keeping watch over human rights in this world? The United States maybe? Does the United

States attend to the millions of human beings without rights who at this very moment, under its very own bridges, are looking about for their year's-end supper? [crowd shouts: No!]

For our part, we here in Cuba... [interrupted by crowd chanting] for our part... [repeats] for our part [repeats] we here in Cuba do see to it that not a single one of those rights are violated, and that not a single one of those needs [goes neglected]. Of course we are certainly not going to blame all our problems and difficulties on the Yankee empire, even if they do employ many ruses to bring the Revolution down.

We are far, Comrades, from having everything working well, from having everyone working with the same degree of determination and the same spirit. We have made mistakes, and we have to see what we are going to do about them. We have not been perfect, and we must work with still greater efficiency, greater tenacity, and greater love. Every comrade who does not do his job properly holds everyone else back. Every person who leaves for tomorrow what he could do today holds back the future. Everyone who does not accomplish his task perfectly delays victory.

At the present time, life has shown us just how many things we have been able to do better and how many resources we have been able to economize. This is an unforgettable lesson for all generations of Cubans. We have accepted a challenge, and great sacrifices are required. We are ending one difficult year and preparing to begin another. But we are not beginners at sacrificing, nor people who will renounce their ideals, however great the challenge may be. From its very birth, the Cuban nation has known only enormous challenges, and has confronted all of them squarely and given them its best shot, without expecting any reward other than the right to call itself a free people. That is what all the generations of worthy Cubans from 1868 to the present have done, winning for their fatherland the respect and praise of all those who, throughout the world, see in honor the only objective worth dying for.

For the boldness and determination with which our grandparents, parents, and grandchildren have this year defended the legacy of the Mambis, which cannot be given up [inclaudicable], we are throwing this party, at which friends from all over the world, who are committed to our cause, are at out side here at this square and in many squares throughout the world. Since during the entire year the sound of machetes, hammers, and chisels has rung out, and intelligence shone, let the talent of our Cuban musicians now, in turn, ring out for these people. [crowd cheers]

So, "Fool," sing now, and sing always, from the heights of this piece of work, which no one will any longer be able to bring down! It is not true that madness has gone out of style. The people listening are good people, and deserve to have poets like you sing their "madness" of not being for sale.

It is a centuries-old tradition for the men and women of the earth to see an old year out and a new year in by toasting the health and good fortune of what they love most and by drinking to a long life for everything they love and defend. We brothers and sisters have gathered here today to toast the Fatherland, the Revolution, and socialism—not to toast another year of life but rather to toast all those who, through our labor and our love, will ensure that these three sacred achievements will continue to exist.

Let us take by the hand, and together toast to the victorious health of, the most original and beautiful 34-year-old girl on earth: the Cuban Revolution. [crowd cheers, applauds, shouts: Viva!]

Lastly, let us toast with a gaiety that not even the rain can cloud, and let us together shout that for many, many more years: May the Fatherland long live! [crowd shouts: Viva!] Long live the Revolution! [crowd shouts: Viva!] Long live socialism! [crowd shouts: Viva!] Long live Fidel! [crowd shouts: Viva!] Long live his people! [crowd shouts: Viva!]

The Fatherland or Death! [crowd responds: We will win!] [crowd applauds, cheers, chants: "Fidel"]

Haiti

Bazin Delivers State of Union Speech

FL0101005393 Port-au-Prince Television Nationale d'Haiti in French 1632 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Speech by Prime Minister Marc Bazin at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince—live; italicized passages in Creole]

[Text] Gentlemen, members of the consensus and public safety government; President of the National Assembly; Mr. President of the Court of Cassation; Mr. Commander in Chief; and Gentlemen, members of the Army General Staff; ladies and gentlemen of the Legislative Body; Mr. President of the Electoral Council; Mr. President of the Audit Court; Gentlemen, representatives of the religious community; ladies and gentlemen, representatives of the labor force and of the private sector; my very dear compatriots, distinguished guests, very dear friends: About six months ago, in this same room, the consensus and public safety government officially took office. A few days earlier, the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Republic—after four days of memorable debates in which as much passion as substance was displayed—had by a great majority approved the declaration of the government's general policy. Received by its friends, by its partisans, by its authors as an innovative answer to the triple failure—political, legislative, and judicial—of the Washington Agreement, assailed by its enemies as a provocation, the form of government that was approved by the authors of the Villa d'Accueil Agreement was unanimously approved on at least one point. That point was a question. By its pragmatism, by

its ambition in adhering to the field's reality and at the same time to the spirit of the Constitution, without being able—circumstances being what they were—to respect its letter, was the Villa d'Accueil form of government viable? Knowing what our country is about, and knowing the compulsive tendency of our political class toward all sorts of political convolutions for no reason at all, could one reasonably hope that a group of men and women from different parties, background, and political horizons, would be able to change the spirit of the Villa d'Accueil Accord in a functional majority government, and constitute a body coherent enough to face external pressures, strong enough to make the state run, and credible enough to stand as a valid representative in facing negotiations. Moreover, with what would such a government survive? With what money?

There were many questions overall, slightly cynical and disabused, but basically perfectly legitimate. One will recall that on the economic plane, the freezing of our assets abroad, the freezing of foreign aid, the budget deficit, and the financing only added to a 10-year-old recession, to a continuous degradation of per capita income, and to the erosion of the fiscal plate. On the more specifically political plane, some left-wing parties had chosen from the start the strategy of a permanent blockade and of a systematic confrontation. On the right wing was found the usual group of partisans, sometimes incorrigible, sometimes inconsolable, full of false solutions, always skeptical regarding the virtues of democracy, and weakly watching the time for—as they say here at home—*things to turn nasty, the cards to be reshuffled.*

As for Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide—strong in his electoral right and certain of the overt support of the international community—was not his sole preoccupation at that time to denounce and condemn the ineffectiveness of the embargo? If not, why then was Father Aristide saying this damned embargo was taking so long to reduce this ungodly political regime with which it would be absurd and moreover, immoral, to negotiate.

Those were, ladies and gentlemen, the parameters within which the consensus and public safety government was doomed to search for its path, a narrow path full of danger among those who want—in any case who say they want the physical, immediate, and unconditional return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and those for whom the page must be turned or torn out completely as a bad souvenir—to go to presidential elections. It is not even the political struggle for power; it is the crusade of right against wrong; it is the difference between error and truth.

[Text] For some, even the word negotiation is equivalent to capitulation. For others, the same word is the synonym of treason of the people's interests. From that moment on, the consensus and public safety government, that wants to be an element of balance and modernization in the Haitian political life, could only bring down the wrath of the extremes upon itself. It is then under the triple sign of political uncertainties, diplomatic challenge, and economic constraints that the consensus and public safety government took office on 19 June. Six months later, almost to the day, how far have we gotten? Well, the government has simply governed. The administration has daily performed its tasks without any interruption. The institutions have worked. The stability of the government has been ensured. The Senate, Chamber of Deputies, and Audit Court are still intact. Sixty-seven justices are being appointed. An electoral council has now been installed. Partial elections are scheduled for 18 January.

No one has been able to hamper the government. There has not been a civil war or a hunger riot. The terrorist action which was aimed at the blind assassination of peaceful citizens and isolated soldiers has been brought under control. Peace in the streets has not been disturbed. For the first time since 1986, the baccalaureate exams took place in a studious atmosphere and in calm. Schools opened normally. Shots are no longer heard at night and I can assure you from where I am and (?straightforwardly) that there was no coup attempt.

Of course, here and there, on weekends, one hears the clamors of several politicians. They worry about all the time that has gone by without their catching sight of when and how things will turn to their benefit. To those politicians we say: Gentlemen, you are mistaken about our intentions. The nation called upon us at a difficult time when it was plunged into confusion and dreaded drastic upheaval. We took many risks. We accepted to lend a hand—together with other compatriots—to get it out of a difficult situation. Put your mind at ease. If that depended upon us only, you would not be concerned either about your return or your future. But we have begun a job and we do not want to interrupt it before it is completed, on the basis of the mandate with which we have been entrusted. This government has governed. What concrete achievements can it pride itself this morning?

We said from the start that the government would not sit idly by waiting for a way out of the diplomatic crisis before it commits itself to alleviating the situation of extreme poverty which is aggravated by the embargo that the Haitian people are facing. This situation of extreme poverty has led the entire population to speed up the degradation of the environment by an overuse of the arable lands which are markedly above the capacity of the demographic load. Every single minute, the country loses 20 square meters of arable land, which is inexorably the expression of a degradation of the basis of individual revenue, the exodus to Port-au-Prince, and an acceleration of the boat people phenomenon. Our reply was to set up an emergency program which concerns concurrently protective investments and quite new projects.

The criteria for the selection of new projects are: the capacity for improving the revenue and sanitary conditions, the capacity for the increase of production and agricultural productivity, the potential for lowering the cost of living for essential products. On 30 November,

the central account of the emergency program received an accumulated amount of 66 million gourdes out of which 58 million were actually spent for urban infrastructure and hydraulic actions. Concerning actions for promotion and social infrastructure, how can I not mention that for the first time in the history of our country the government helped parents buy school books with a subsidy of 13 million gourdes. For the first time in the history of our country the government—through the national sponsorship plan—helps with the payment of school fees for 20,000 children who would otherwise not have gone to school. For the first time in the history of this country the government has actually established the principle of a right to work by paying an unemployment benefit to more than 10,000 workers. Also, for the first time in Haiti, the state has conceived, in cooperation with the private sector, a loan and grant program to students on the basis of a direct grant of 12 million gourdes with a guarantee to 84 million. Loans will be for 12,000 gourdes per year, repayable only six months after the end of studies. Grants for excellence will be for 15,000 gourdes per year per student registered in the program. One must mention the bonus paid to the public administration employees, the implementation of the new pharmacy in the General Hospital, and the admirable organization of summer games which gathered thousands of young people throughout the country in recreational and sports programs. Then there is the decrease in the price of some essential products, especially flour, rice, and sugar.

Let us go from the social plane to industrial investment. Less than two weeks ago, the government opened, jointly with the Rice Corporation of Haiti, an industrial complex for storehousing, processing, and rice bagging. Within two weeks, the government will sign with (?Life Light Wimplex Limited), a contract for 85 million dollars for the supply of 45 megawatts of electrical energy. We are also going to sign soon a letter of intent with a national private group for the reestablishment of the compost factory. The financing for the airport in Cap-Haitian has been virtually obtained as is the one for the Malpasse Road. To this end, should we forget that since the first months, the first days of the government, we were able to obtain from several American firms the resumption of their assembly activities, which provided for the visit of an important delegation of the Central American Action, and the resumption of more than 10,000 jobs in the industrial sector, despite the embargo. We cannot fail to mention the imminent launching of an aid program to small and medium firms, based on 100 million gourdes to be put at their disposal; financial and technical support on a refundable credit form, at a low interest rate; and technical guidance for the preparation of projects.

Ladies and gentlemen, here is, in a few words, the operational assessment in a short period of time of the consensus and public safety government team. I said in a few words because within a few days, the Ministry of Planning will issue a complete and more detailed document. Therefore, the question we must ask is should we give ourselves a mark? No, no. The facts speak for themselves. Moreover, we do not want to embarrass anyone for yesterday or for the day before yesterday. In fact, for all that, listening to this assessment, we know that people of goodwill—thank God there are many in this country—are not inspired either by envy or resentment, and they ask themselves: *What if there was no embargo?*

However, how important are the realizations of the government on the social, physical, and industrial infrastructures. We have not, at any time, lost sight of the goal of our initial mandate which stresses the necessity of implementing or consolidating the democratic institutions. In this regard, we were concerned about four major subjects. The first subject is the respect for human rights; the second is the creation of a specialized police force; the third relates to decentralization; and the fourth is negotiations.

The first major institutional concern is the respect for fundamental human rights or if you wish, to speak briefly, the file on violence and repression. First of all, let us reassert our position. We think freedom is a fundamental right and essential element in human development. Unfortunately—and we are the first to deplore this—our society, by its origin and history, is deeply conditioned by violence at every level: family, interpersonal, community, national, and state. It is an unfortunate legacy we must manage and overcome. But we must first tackle it. It is no use burying our head in the sand and saying the sun does not exist. Simply speaking of violence and repression in one way only leads to nothing constructive. Obviously, there have been violations and flaws. But certainly not more and likely less than under other governments because until now the unbiased factors of violence have been the same for too much time: a strong tradition of government authoritarian centralism, the fact that the entire national territory has never enjoyed a normal administrative covering. The old Haitian practice of scattered settlement, the dramatic lack of roads, the mountainous physical configuration, the nonexistence of a telephone network, the fact that in numerous regions of the country the government is represented only by section chiefs while the latter are not trained enough and not equipped well, the persistence of an age-old and anachronistic exploitation system encouraged by illiteracy and poverty, and—to confine myself to today—the absence of the institutions provided for by the Constitution. There are just so many factors that have worked toward and that are working toward making the use of violence an unfortunately too frequent means to resolve social conflicts in Haiti.

Repression will no longer be part of our daily factual experience only when reliable and credible mechanisms are established everywhere within the national territory to resolve local conflicts between peasants and city dwellers, between peasants and peasants, between bosses and workers, between those to be tried and dispensers of justice. While awaiting that the sociopolitical dynamics, while awaiting that the democratization of the Haitian

society and the development of our economy allow the materialization of such prospects, what do we do, what can we do for the time being? As early as the month of July, the Council of Ministers gave mandate to the minister of justice to set in motion the process of preparing the organic law ruling the functioning of the Office for the Protection of Citizens. Also, as early as August, we submitted three international conventions on torture, children's rights, and economic, social, and cultural rights to the parliament for ratification.

We want to soon help create a human rights office independent of the government. The task of this office would be to collect grievances concerning breaches of human rights, to succor the prisoners and their families, to set up actual and (?fruitful) cooperation relations with nongovernmental organizations concerned with the question of human rights. Still in the same field, we have concerned ourselves with training and information on human rights. The government intends to really have the teaching of human rights included in the curriculum of the schools and universities in connection with civic education programs which need to be conducted. We will develop contacts with all the local organizations for defense of human rights—at least, with those that wish—to set up such programs and especially to start—in the short term—training programs on human rights.

Another point in our action will consist in helping the fourth power to do more and to do better for democracy. If the executive, legislative, and judicial powers have an essential institutional role to play individually in the maintenance of the development of freedoms, the fight for the freedom of the press must be incessantly renewed because the fate of democracy depends on it. It will thus be a question of respecting and enforcing the freedom of expression as guaranteed by the Constitution and protected by the law. It will be a question of doing everything so news editors, journalists, or media directors are not threatened and are not the victims of any form of harassment on the basis of their opinions. We have noted that under this government the written, spoken, and televised press is totally free. It will be also a question of making sure the working conditions of the journalists are improved and that they have access—in Haiti or abroad—to modern training channels.

The government has also planned the creation of a specialized police force. After having included a chapter especially devoted to the armed forces in the emergency plan, we raised the problem of the creation of a specialized police force at the 21 October Council of Ministers meeting. An inter-ministerial interior-justice committee was given the responsibility of preparing the project, its modes of application, an estimate of the costs, a fulfillment calendar, and the assessment of the necessary technical assistance. Informed of the decision of the Council of Ministers, the commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] told us on his own initiative that the FADH already has a study at their disposal and will designate two senior officers to be part of the inter-ministerial committee.

Our third institutional concern is decentralization because we believe decentralization represents a guarantee and, I would venture to say, the decisive test of the true process of democratization. If our government has been the first in Haiti's history to hold a Council of Ministers meeting in a provincial town, it has not only been to remove the republic of Port-au-Prince from its pedestal, so to speak. It was also a way to pass on to the local elected representatives the message that the government would not be oppressive, that on the contrary, it would be ready to encourage any initiatives that they would fully and directly assume in carrying out their constitutional responsibilities.

It was in that spirit that we encouraged and hailed the constitution and the participation of an absolutely impressive number, about 94 percent, of communal section assemblies, municipal assemblies, and departmental assemblies in the creation of the electoral council. It was also to facilitate the actual transfer of powers to the elected representatives that the government recently approved a plan of eight million gourdes for the training of Communal Section Administration Councils in execution of their duties as assistants to civil-status officers.

Let us now finally go to the issue of negotiations. First, let us recall that while in the process of forming the government, we invited all political parties to participate. Our hope, which was proclaimed at that time and which is reaffirmed today, is and remains the reconciliation of all Haitians, to put an end to violence regardless of its source and to begin building a just and democratic society based on the law, while excluding the law of abuse and the law of the street. Once the parliament, in its full, complete, and free execution of national sovereignty, had approved our statement of general policy and established our mandate to find a way out of the crisis that is acceptable to all the parties, we had found ourselves faced with an external world particularly hostile. The OAS had met just the month before and decided it was advisable to strengthen the embargo, whereas amost everybody had already agreed that the embargo was used only to punish the poor and deprived people. Thus, the OAS turned its back on the dramatic sufferings of the Haitian people while demonstrating total indifference to our sovereign rights as an independent nation.

We asked for negotiations without conditions. We actively sought and made contact with the OAS and called on many countries to support our action in favor of a negotiated solution. We insisted and finally convinced the OAS to adopt a position of mediator and to stop being both judge and judged. We have used all possible and conceivable diplomatic channels to try to convince Reverend Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide of the need to sit down and begin negotiations.

In August 1992, an important OAS delegation, headed by the secretary general [Joao Baena Soares], came to meet with us. On the basis of this visit to Haiti and the encouraging results it yielded, Mr. Baena Soares called

on the two parties, the government and Father Aristide, so they could meet in Washington in September. To lay the foundation for this necessary and urgent national reconciliation, we agreed to receive a mission of 18 OAS observers in Haiti. We straightforwardly accepted it. In the same spirit of openmindedness and availability for a negotiated solution, in spite of serious reservations, we agreed with the suggestion that Mr. [Michael] Manley serve as facilitator. After a brief meeting with Mr. Manley in October, it again appeared as if one of the parties still did not wish to engage in the dynamics of negotiations, peace, and concord among Haitians, sons of the same homeland he began.

During the past six months, Ladies and Gentlemen, we received numerous visits, many missions, many delegations. The latest one was that of the special envoy of the UN secretary general and we welcomed it with interest. We always welcome those who truly wish us well. On the other hand, to those who have designated themselves experts on the Haitian issue, and who wish to intervene, at all costs, to impose a solution by force, we say with equal force that this crisis is a Haitian crisis and that it will be resolved by Haitians only. In this respect, the democratic countries, instead of adding fuel to the fire, should encourage the Haitian parties to understand the need to have recourse to a national dialogue to build unity and prevent reinforcement of the clan of extremists and hardliners. I say then in your presence, and I repeat to the OAS secretary general and to the UN secretary general that we are always ready to seek, in goodwill, a solution to this crisis, anywhere, without prior conditions. In the same spirit, we are ready to agree at any time with the OAS and the UN on a timetable and the ways and means of negotiating. In case—we continue to hope, for the welfare of this nation—Father Aristide should be convinced of the need to negotiate, whether around the same table or through third parties, what does such a negotiation involve? Which proposals are we ready to make? The moment has certainly not come to make some specific positions public, when negotiations have not even begun. There are in our opinion, however, a number of ideas and principles that could possibly serve as guides and as a backdrop.

First of all—and without wanting in any way to confer on the electoral process more virtue than would justify the many experiences of regimes that issued from elections, but whose behavior in power revealed themselves as anti-democratic—we think the open and definitive questioning of the legitimacy of the elections as a means of taking power, would not serve—today less than ever—the interests of democracy in Haiti. Nevertheless, holding elections is one thing; organizing democracy is another. To organize democracy today in Haiti is to find a compromise between the principle of electoral legitimacy, and the deep socioeconomic realities of the country. It is to organize an institutional space large enough and flexible enough to allow the coexistence, over a long period of time, of interests that are today radically opposed. We do not see why a harmonization of principles, interests, and realities could not take place through a reconciliation of the Washington Agreement and the Villa D'Accueil Accord. Such a text of harmonization would reassert the fundamental principles of the Constitution, of national sovereignty, of the separation of powers, of respect for the principle of electoral legitimacy and of the mandate of all the elected people, and respect for freedom and human rights. However, such a text would also include the legitimate concerns of all the parties whose action contributes to the effective running of public authority in Haiti, the only way to come to a real process of national reconciliation. It is also obvious that no agreement could validly intervene without the approval of parliament and the sanction of the forces of Haitian society, whose approval is one of the conditions of the practical applicability of the agreement itself. Only the government that governs the nation's policy is entitled to negotiate, for which it has, moreover, received explicit and exclusive mandate by the Villa D'Accueil Accord, in which two of the main actors were the parliament and the Armed Forces of Haiti. Any agreement that can intervene on important elements of the negotiation, such as the development of a national chart for democracy, respect for acts of parliament, amnesty, renunciation of all forms of violence, lifting of the embargo, and progressive implementation of all the institutional structures of democracy, must be the object of a general and simultaneous agreement.

Nevertheless, as Haitian patriots, and democrats, we would like to go further in the resolution of the current deadlock. The current deadlock is after all only the latest of the myriad accidents that have stood in the way of democracy in Haiti: enterprises always begun and constantly thwarted. We want a negotiation that goes deeply into things, meaning one that comes out with agreements, rules, methods, and mechanisms of control; able to install, maintain, and preserve democracy for good; the building of a more just society on the basis of real economic and social development. That is a considerable task, with which we ask the true friends of democracy to associate themselves. By true friends of democracy we mean all those who are aware that is is not advisable to seize this Haitian crisis as an instrument for their own personal interests, either local or hemispheric. Not only because as such, it would be neither decent nor reasonable, but also because as such it would not be effective, due to the inadequacy of the means in relation to the end. We want a lasting solution, a lasting solution to the drama of the absence of democratic traditions in Haiti, and the phenomena that go with it such as poverty, overpopulation, AIDS, boat people, illiteracy, and sickness. Such a solution—one sees it clearly—cannot be reached through an embargo or a blockade or by any means of violence.

A solution to the problem of democracy in Haiti, a lasting solution, must take into account a certain number of elementary truths: The first is that in 200 years of history, we have not been able to implement democratic institutions and government practices. The truth is also

that many Haitians are not at all convinced that democracy is a primary political value and the only way that leads to a social life of harmony and progress. The truth is also, the truth again is that in Haiti, the enemies of democracy are found not only among the pure and those in favor of dictatorship, but also among those who Alexis de Tocqueville called the excessive democrats, demagogic and utopist. After all, if the struggle for the defense of the people's interests or even the struggle against the tyrants is often associated with the struggle for democracy, they do not always mingle. If it is also true that the force of an organized civil society constitutes the rampart against state absolutism and dictatorship, it is no less true that the idea most opposed to representative and participative democracy is the use of pressure groups as a means of substitution for the normal functioning of constitutional mechanisms and democratic institutions.

From that moment, from that moment [repeats], Ladies and Gentlemen, there cannot be solid democracy without democrats at the top as well as at the bottom. The ambition of the servants of democracy should focus on searching for the means to institutionalize and adapt democratic ideals to the pressures and resistance resulting from the peculiarities of our history, our culture, and our underdevelopment, Haiti's only way to end up in the ideal political configuration. However, without anticipating what this adaptation process can be, we already know one thing: given the deep social structures of our country, given the extent of the institutional space inherited from the past, we are convinced that the ideal political configuration for Haiti will come not from a violent revolution, but from a pact among the political actors, and a multilateral compromise based on gradual reforms, which will eventually be the true, gradual, peaceful revolution with more chances to settle down in depth and become irreversible. Such a pact would include not only agreements among political parties, between political parties and the Army, but also between political parties on the one hand and the private sector and the working world on the other; on property rights; on market organization; and on the sharing of profits. In our opinion, any attempt to settle the current conflict that was not turned to good account in approaching the core of things would have no effect, but would only prolong the crisis and complicate it further. Perhaps, we should envision—with regard to the establishment of a pact for democracy and the definition and progressive establishment of the structures of democracy—the creation of a committee of wise people in which would be represented all the actors who support the negotiation process but do not yet participate in the consensus and public safety government.

In conclusion—I make a point of telling you that in a solemn way—we will continue efforts toward a negotiated solution which can end the sufferings of the Haitian people. We hope in any case that you and we are making an appointment today for 7 February 1993, the date when, together, we will again take stock of the country's situation, of the problems and prospects open to us at that moment. I would only be harming myself, Ladies and Gentlemen, to end this assessment talk without expressing a public debt of gratitude to a certain number of persons and institutions who have tirelessly supported the government's action over the past six months.

My thanks go first to the entire Haitian people who have kept their calm for this long period, up until now, carefully observing the evolution of things, oh! certainly always attached to the cause of democracy, but convinced deep down that disorder and chaos would not be the [appropriate] response to today's crisis. I then want to commend the ministers and undersecretaries of state who have shown competence, a strong working capability, discipline, and cohesion. I do not believe there has ever been in our country's history a coalition government that has so distinguished itself by its team spirit and concern for governmental solidarity. What else is there to say about the capacity of this same government to practice transparency, which is unprecedented, with not only a weekly Council of Ministers meeting, but also a public and precise report without equivocation? Ladies and Gentlemen of the government, I greet you on behalf of the country.

I also wish to express my deep appreciation to the parliament, which is often torn apart among interests and opposed groups but is always alert with respect to its rights of control of the executive, which is the cornerstone of democracy. Without a doubt, the government's legislative timetable, rich with some 80 bills, has not been approached with the efficiency, the promptness, and the seriousness we would want. We know it is not the fault of Parliament as a whole for having failed in its responsibilities. Oh no, the blame is due only to a strategic myopia of a certain minority, clever and venturesome, for which opposition is synonymous with delay tatics and quarrels of procedure. If it does not fall on anyone, anyway not on the executive, to question the motives of such a strategy, one can, on the other hand, regret the fact that it damages the credit of the institution. Where are the great parliamentary debates of the past? We can also regret the fact that those tactics led to a great delay in implementation of the democratic institutions. But fortunately, fortunately [repeats], as circumstances require each time, a great, proud majority of men and women of exceptional quality face the challenges and support the state action without flinching; each time, the government's initiatives seem in conformity with the highest interests of the country. The nation, through my voice, gentlemen parliamentarians, ladies, the nation through my voice, render you today the public homage that you deserve.

As for the Haitian Army, it has constantly, day after day, offered proof of its faithfulness to the spirit and the letter of the Villa D'Accueil Accord. The national force, born at the same time as the state, the Haitian Army has displayed coolness, never falling into provocation, constantly open to discussion, and always concerned with creating in the country an atmosphere of work and

serenity, without which no government action, regardless of merit, can be implemented and do well. On behalf of the government, and on my personal behalf, I honor and wish long life to the commander in chief, to the officers, to the warrant officers, and soldiers of the Haitian Army. [applause]

A special word at last for the private sector, the employers and the wage earners, whose dynamism and nationalism have admirably expressed themselves. No strike on a large scale has marred this period which, taking into account the difficulties for the labor force caused by an embargo unembarrased and inhuman, shows the labor unions' ability to analyze and its maturity. As for the employers, bankers, manufacturers, businessmen and women, rich or less rich, wholesale or retail business people, they have supported and accompanied the government everytime they were asked to do so. In this admirable cooperation between the public sector and the private sector, and given the extraordinary results it has caused—national sponsorship, student loans, cofinancing of infrastructure projects, relaunching of coffee and cocoa, the national tourism council—in this admirable cooperation, one must see confirmation that dialogue is more efficient than confrontation.

In democracy, the capacity for mobilizing the goodwill of all who participate in a common cause in the city's life is the key by which political philosophies and elections turn into actual realizations. In democracy, this capacity is also the test of the capacity for ruling. If one is concerned about the result, one must establish a relationship between the purpose pursued and the means one has at one's disposal on the one hand, and an attempt to build from what exists on the other. To want to destroy everything and begin again leads to abuse and powerlessness that generate tensions, divisions, upheavals, and disorders. But to cooperate, to take counsel together, to dialogue, to negotiate to resolve the inevitable strata and interest conflicts which are the fate of all human societies, corresponds not only to practical necessity for effectiveness, but is also a necessary condition for a climate of confidence, tolerance, agreement, harmony, and brotherhood that will cement the unity which we need more than ever today in Haiti. It is in that spirit of unity and reconciliation that on behalf of my colleagues in the government and on my own behalf, and while drawing inspiration from our common faith in the fate of the beloved homeland, that I wish all Haitians—no matter where they are, in Haiti or abroad—I wish them, with confidence and force, a good and happy new year 1993. May the God of the believers help us and support us! [applause]

El Salvador

Reportage on Armed Forces Discharges, Transfers

Armed Forces Issues Order on Changes

PA3112231992 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2220 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] San Salvador, 31 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Armed Forces on 31 December issued a general order authorized by President Alfredo Cristiani, which includes discharges and transfers of officers who have been accused of human rights violations.

A Defense Ministry communique stated that Major Mauricio de Jesus Beltran Granados, who is said to be responsible for the killing of nearly 12 peasants in central San Vicente Department in 1988, has been discharged because of judicial proceedings against him.

Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Leiva, who some months ago was accused of participating in a plot to kill Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, was discharged for the same reason.

Lieutenant Isaac Oswaldo Penate was discharged because he is also facing judicial proceedings, although the cause of these proceedings was not detailed in the official report.

The administrative measures suggested by a special commission for the purge of the Army should have begun to be implemented in the list of officers released on 31 December. The special commission was created within the peace agreements signed by the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas.

The Ad Hoc Commission report was presented to Cristiani and UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali in September but the names it contains have been kept absolutely secret by the two leaders.

The Army purge measures suggested by the commission must begin to be implemented beginning on 1 January. According to unofficial sources, the measures include the discharge or transfer to other units of more than 100 officers.

Nevertheless, no member of the Armed Forces High Command was removed from his post in today's order.

The official announcement also established that Colonel Humberto Corado Figueroa, accused by opposition groups of being one of the biggest violators of human rights in the country, will be chief of the Armed Forces Doctrine and Education Command.

Colonel Julio Cesar Grijalva, mentioned by the nongovernmental Salvadoran Human Rights Commission in a list of officers with a record of violations of basic freedoms, will be the new commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade headquartered in San Salvador.

For the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), which is now a political party, the process to purge the ranks of the Army is one of the most important points in the peace accords it signed with the government in Mexico on 16 January, because it "entails the end of the impunity the soldiers in this country have enjoyed."

The order of changes announced the transfer of 14 other officers to the command of other garrisons, to administrative positions, or to posts abroad.

In addition, 19 lieutenant colonels have been promoted to colonel, 18 majors to lieutenant colonel, three captains to major, 156 lieutenants to captain, 110 sublieutenants to lieutenant, and 21 soldiers to sublieutenant.

The Salvadoran civil war ended officially on 15 December, when the FMLN was completely disarmed and registered as a legal political party.

Further on Changes

PA0101191893 San Salvador Radio Cadena Cuscatlan in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Report by Hernan Quezada de la Torre—live]

[Text] The Armed Forces General Orders announce changes and promotions.

General Orders No. 14 issued on 1 January by the Defense Ministry and authorized by His Excellency Alfredo Cristiani, constitutional president of the Republic and commander general of the Armed Forces, register the following changes:

Promotions: Nineteen lieutenant colonels were promoted to colonel, 18 majors to lieutenant colonel, three captains to major, 156 lieutenants to captain, and 110 second lieutenants to lieutenant. In addition, 21 second lieutenants were appointed.

Other instructions: Colonel Humberto Corado Figueroa has been appointed chief of the Armed Forces Military Doctrine and Education; Colonel Julio Cesar Grijalva has been appointed commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade headquartered in this capital; and Colonel Juan Emilio Velasco Alfaro has been appointed commander of the 6th Infantry Brigade located in Usulutan. Colonel Rolando Carcamo Alfaro has been appointed commander of the 1st Military Detachment in Chalatenango.

Colonel Salvador Antonio Sosa Carranza has been appointed new commander of the 2d Military Detachment [DM 2]. The DM 2 is located in Sensuntepeque. Colonel Oscar Edgardo Velasquez Rivera has been appointed chief of the 3d Military Detachment in La Union, and Colonel Nicolas Hernandez Quintanilla has been appointed commander of the 4th Military Detachment [DM 4]. The DM 4 is located in San Francisco

Gotera, Morazan Department. Colonel Rigoberto Hernandez Hernandez will be commander of the 5th Military Detachment, which is in Cojutepeque, Cuscatlan Department.

Other changes: Colonel Nelson Ivan Saldana Araujo has been appointed new director of the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military School. Colonel Eduardo Alfonso Guadron has been appointed general of military health in this capital. Colonels Jose Manuel Garcia Prieto, Jose Eduardo Angel Orellana, and Juan Ernesto Mendez Rodriguez will become members of the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff. Colonel Alejandro Monterrosa Amaya has been appointed to an administrative post in the Defense Ministry.

Colonel Jose Mario Godinez Castillo has been appointed military attache in Washington. Colonel Jose Antonio Almendariz and Orlando Carranza have been appointed military attaches abroad.

The same order reveals that the following have been discharged as the result of a judicial process: Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Leiva Jacobo, Major Mauricio de Jesus Beltran Granados, and Lieutenant Isaac Osvaldo Penate Naves.

The previous changes are effective 1 January 1993.

UN Claims Armed Forces Not Complying

PA0201131593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0043 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] New York, 1 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The United Nations stated on 2 January that the Salvadoran Government has not complied with the Armed Forces purge within the established deadline and warned of the risks this entails for the Salvadoran peace process.

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali issued a communique on 1 January stating that the changes made within the Salvadoran Army, which were disclosed by the Armed Forces on 31 December, "do not comply" with the peace agreements." [quotation marks as received]

In accordance with the latest rescheduling of the agreements, President Alfredo Cristiani's administration on 1 January should have dismissed or relocated 116 Army troops found guilty of human rights violations by a civilian commission.

According to the United Nations, the changes listed by the Army do not fulfill the recommendations made by the ad hoc commission, which were stated in the peace agreements signed by the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] in January 1992 in Mexico City.

Diplomatic sources told NOTIMEX on 1 January that on 5 January Cristiani will send Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria and Arturo Tona, Cristiani's private secretary, to New York to discuss the matter with UN officials.

Secretary General Butrus-Ghali will be in Ethiopia at a summit on the Somalia problem, but it is hoped that Cristiani's envoys will meet with UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding and Alvaro de Soto, Butrus-Ghali's political advisor

According to the sources, on 4 January Cristiani will attempt to get the FMLN to agree to an extension for compliance with the purge, which the Salvadoran envoys would then discuss at the United Nations.

Diplomats close to the Salvadoran peace process feel that noncompliance with this crucial point in the agreements endangers the difficult transition to peace in El Salvador and threatens to unleash a new crisis.

Salvadorans celebrated "National Reconciliation" day on 15 December, officially ending nearly 12 years of civil war.

FMLN Unsatisfied With Announced Changes

PA0201041493 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0329 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The former Salvadoran guerrillas on 1 January warned that if the government does not effectively carry out a purge within the Army, as established in the peace accords, a new and deeper political and social crisis could be unleashed in the country.

Marcos Jimenez, leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], said his organization received "with concern" the order of changes within the Armed Forces issued on 31 December and implemented on 1 January.

In accordance with the peace agreements the government and the newly recognized FMLN Party signed almost a year ago in Mexico, an ad hoc commission evaluated the behavior and professional actions of the officers during the domestic war that lasted more than 10 years. Even though the results of the investigation are known only to President Alfredo Cristiani and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, it has been learned that the commission recommended the discharge or relocation of 116 soldiers. In light of this, it was expected that the purge of the officers—which, according to unofficial sources, would include members of the high command—would become evident in the recent order for changes.

According to Jimenez, "it is noteworthy that the high command was not affected by these changes, which only affected lower levels," such as garrisons and brigades.

On 1 January, Butrus Butrus-Ghali issued a statement at the United Nations stating that the list of changes within

the Armed Forces "does not abide" by what is established in the agreements and that this could endanger the peace process in El Salvador.

Jimenez told NOTIMEX that the FMLN "has not done an in-depth evaluation" of the situation because it is waiting to hear the results of a meeting that the officers were holding to discuss the continuation of the purge.

The FMLN leader said the decision made by the soldiers "is vital" because it will determine the topics to be broached by the FMLN during its private meeting with President Cristiani on 4 January.

"The government must make serious moves. We know that certain groups within the Armed Forces are exerting strong pressure, however, there is no other way out," Jimenez added.

Jimenez said that "resisting the purge is breeding grounds for the new crisis, not only a political but a social crisis as well. This would occur at a time when the country must be heading along a new path," especially now since 15 December marked the formal end to the armed conflict.

FMLN To Suspend Missile Destruction

PA0301205793 Paris AFP in Spanish 1957 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Jan (AFP)—The former Salvadoran guerrillas have suspended the destruction of the last batch of 50 surface-to-air missiles because they are not pleased with the way the Army purge is going. This was announced on 3 January by a high-ranking leader of the now political party.

Nidia Diaz [Maria Concepcion Valladares de Sosa], member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] Directorate, said that following their official demobilization and weapons destruction on 15 December, the former guerrillas have suspended the destruction of a batch of missiles.

They are waiting for the purge of 117 Armed Forces chiefs accused of human rights violations.

On 31 December, the FMLN expected President Alfredo Cristiani to make those changes recommended by an ad hoc commission on the purge of the military. But only low ranking officers at eight military garrisons were affected by the changes, according to an order announced on 1 January. The United Nations, which is acting as a mediator of the peace process, issued a statement on 2 January asking President Cristiani to abide by the agreements. As a UN spokesman noted, the announced changes do not correspond to the commitments made by the president.

Diaz said the situation will be analyzed on 4 January during a meeting of representatives of five FMLN groups and the former general command. The FMLN was legally registered as a political party on 14 December.

She added that until 3 January the FMLN had not received any official information from UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali regarding the announcement on the military purge.

Unofficial sources in El Salvador stated that Cristiani will send two delegates on 5 January with another secret purge order, which will reportedly be implemented after 6 January.

Official sources could not confirm that report, citing the confidentiality of the topic.

Nicaragua

Temporary Board Takes Over Legislative Assembly

PA0101130993 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Dec 92 pp 1, 10

[Article by Elisa Maturana C.]

[Text] A temporary parliamentary board organized as a special commission was sworn in on 30 December at the Legislative Assembly with the cooperation of Government Ministry authorities. This event took place after the government issued a presidential agreement on 29 December containing "precautionary" measures for controlling the Legislative Assembly.

The special commission, made up of three members of the temporary board, was headed by the "oldest" deputy, Sandinist Domingo Sanchez (Chaguitillo), who received the parliamentary installations from Commander Evenor Gutierrez.

Two of the youngest deputies, Sandinists Maria Ramirez and Carlos Gallo, were with (Chaguitillo).

Orlando Buitrago, National Opposition Unity [UNO] deputy and fourth member of the Temporary Board, excused himself before the Special Commission for not participating in the turning over of the parliamentary installations, claiming ill health.

Meanwhile, Deputy Ramirez said: "Next week we will prepare for the 9 January elections, and on 4 January we will start drawing up the list of deputies that will participate" is these sessions.

The youngest deputy warned that "alternate deputies who have not been duly accredited or authorized by the principal deputies" will not be able to participate in the election for the new board of directors. She also expressed her hope that the time leading up to the elections would "pass peacefully."

The controlled access session will virtually guarantee the victory of UNO Deputy Gustavo Tablada of the so-called "Center Bloc." Tablada is the legislative presidential candidate who has the decided support of the Sandinist wing.

Sanchez, 77, ruled out that the turning over of the building could be interpreted as a military occupation. He stressed: "The Legislative Assembly is not militarily occupied, as some media have said. The Government Ministry is only helping to guard the building."

Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta, who had a short meeting with the commission before the building was turned over, told BARRICADA that building security remains the same. "So far no special measures have been taken and the security personnel are the same," Mendieta indicated.

Some UNO leaders and deputies met on 30 December at Communist Party headquarters to analyze Presidential Agreement No. 341-92. The agreement gave the temporary board of directors control of the Legislative Assembly.

When the meeting ended they read a joint communique at the Christian Democratic Union headquarters rejecting the executive provision, as in their opinion the executive branch "has assumed powers not granted by the Constitution or the laws."

In the eight-paragraph communique, the UNO deputies labeled the presidential order illegal, authoritarian, and illegitimate and declared "null" the summons contained in the agreement for the deputies to attend the session on 9 January.

"....the UNO wing cannot obey any decisions made at a Deputy meeting that is not summoned by the Legislative Assembly's Board of Director's," the communique states.

Nevertheless, some deputies told BARRICADA that this rejection does not necessarily mean a definite withdrawal from that or any other session. They commented: "We have not decided whether we will participate."

Deputy Minister Addresses National Assembly Issue

PA0301200793 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Interview with Deputy Government Minister Joaquin Lobo by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Lobo] I have summoned the deputies to a meeting for the sole purpose of putting myself at their disposal to execute the measures they deem necessary for the proper functioning of the National Assembly. I have limited myself to that. I have neither changed National Assembly personnel nor have I increased their number. We have adopted the usual measures, totally normal measures. The National Assembly is on vacation, therefore no authorized personnel are entering the facility. I have instructed Commander (Benor) Gutierrez, who has been in charge of protecting the Presidency and National Assembly for a long time, to place himself at the disposal of Domingo Sanchez, the oldest member of the National Assembly, and to execute all measures that may be necessary at the National Assembly.

[Reporter] Are the National Opposition Union [UNO] deputies banned from the Assembly?

[Lobo] Not at all. The deputies have not been banned from entering. A situation like that has not even been considered. I repeat, the Assembly has not been visited by deputies from any faction. Until sessions resume on 4 January, the deputies will have normal access to the National Assembly, and the same goes for the former Bank of America building where the legislative factions have their offices. The deputies have free access to all these places.

[Reporter] Will the National Assembly facilities be placed under the responsibility of the deputies in the provisional board of directors?

[Lobo] Yes, and that is the main purpose of this meeting. I would like the members of the provisional board to express their views on this issue because what I am doing is placing myself at their disposal to execute the measures they consider necessary in accordance with the agreement issued by the president of the Republic.

[Reporter] What message would you send to the National Assembly employees? I spoke with some of them yesterday, and they were fearful about what certain radio stations were announcing.

[Lobo] There is no problem or abnormality where National Assembly employees are concerned. I would tell them to remain calm and especially to work with this board of directors which, in accordance with the law, must prepare the meeting where the new National Assembly authorities will be elected. I must be absolutely clear on the fact that after the resolution issued by the Supreme Court of Justice, the National Assembly was practically without authorities. The executive branch, therefore, is restoring normalcy at the National Assembly to prevent it from being nullified over the next two years under the new directorate, which could lead to a de facto situation that could prove very conflictive for the country.

Humberto Ortega Interviewed on New Army Law

PA0101035293 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 29 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Interview with General Humberto Ortega, Sandinist People's Army, EPS, commander in chief, by Elisa Maturana Coronel; place and date not given]

[Text] [Maturana] Many people talk about the need to reform the Army law. Do you agree?

[Ortega] The Armed Forces are not against improvement; we are in the improvement phase. The process will take several years as it will require structural and personnel changes. The required previous phase—troop

reduction—has already been completed. The improvement phase includes the professionalization and institutionalization of the Armed Forces. We are working on this endeavor.

The law that currently rules us was promulgated by Commander Daniel Ortega's government and was later reformed by the current government. The law was not repealed. Based on agreements, the law was improved and adapted without damaging the institution and its needs. The law was reformed as much as possible to conform with the existing political needs but without negating its military core. The law is neither the one promulgated by Ortega, nor the one the extreme rightists wanted.

The changes made to the law have not been enough and I, Humberto Ortega, the commander of the Army, agree that it has to be further adjusted to the current situation. The changes, however, are to conform to the Army's needs and not to the whims or the pressure exerted by local politicians and much less pressure by foreigners.

As a soldier and as EPS commander, I believe several reforms have to be made to our law. I repeat, however, that the reforms have to conform to the needs of our institution and not to pressure. If not, and I want to emphasize this, I rather have dignity even at the cost of my life than life at the cost of my dignity. [sentence as published]

[Maturana] Which reforms would you support?

[Ortega] We believe two types of important adjustments are needed. The first is to secure a decent military career and the second is to ensure a social security system for the armed institution.

With regard to the social security system, our intention is to ensure that officers do not have to endure the hardships experienced by those who were laid off. The outlook is that we do not want our retired officers to suffer misfortune. We want them to be able to live a decent life after working in the Army for 20 or 30 years.

With regard to the military career, I will only touch on one point on this occasion—a point that is politically pleasant—that is, that some are...

[Maturana] ...burning to hear?

[Ortega] Humanly speaking, this is somewhat bothersome. It would not be surprising if the far-rightists take up the banner against Humberto Ortega. I regret, however, that some Sandinists fell into that trap thinking that I covet power and wish to stay as Army head forever, as one Sandinist and BARRICADA have said. I am not Christ, but I am also willing to forgive in these holidays because, deep in my heart, I am a Christian, too.

I wish to tell those in the revolution who think I covet power that my revolutionary brothers who are in the Army, and who have been more tested in the revolutionary struggle than many others outside because they were willing to give their lives in the fight against Somoza, would never accept that Humberto Ortega stay as Army head forever. These fellow fighters are not scarecrows or mediocre people. If this had been my intention, they would already have removed me or executed me. It grieves me when honest people become confused and think that Army officers are stupid. I do not covet power. It would even be easier for me to request a visa and go to the United States to study. It is more satisfying for me, however, to err trying to do good than leave the process to avoid criticism or out of fear of making a mistake.

I wish to say everything related to the regulation of positions and functions in the Army will be established in the military career. We did not have a military career because we were Latin America's youngest army. We were born in 1979 and still do not have the necessary legal framework because we were at war. In this framework will be established the duration in office of every member. This includes the Army commander, the position I hold.

Since the law cannot be retroactive, this term will be effective as soon as the amendments are approved by the proper authorities.

[Maturana] When could these amendments be enacted?

[Ortega] The Army has nearly completed the text. The draft is almost ready and will be presented to the authorities in due time.

[Maturana] Could it be in 1993?

[Ortega] We hope it will be enacted through the National Assembly or a presidential decree.

[Maturana] What term will be established for the Army commander position?

[Ortega] The one that does the institution the greatest good. We think this term should not be longer than that for the National Police director general, four years, not more than six years.

[Maturana] It has been said obligatory military service could be reinstated?

[Ortega] Although the pope regards military service necessary to strengthen overall Italian youth development, I, Humberto Ortega, who advocated and created the SMP [Patriotic Military Service] as a vital historic alternative and a lasting affirmation of Nicaraguan freedom, tell you that our Army will not require obligatory military service.

[Maturana] Do you expect to stay in office when the law is promulgated or would you leave room for someone else?

[Ortega] Of course. In accordance with the military career mechanism and the need to have a more stable

Army, I think that, while the process is being consolidated, I am the most appropriate person and the one whose duty it is.

[Maturana] Will the commander retire when his term ends or can he assume a different position?

[Ortega] The logical thing would be to retire. Otherwise, it would be like passing from priest to sexton. I think that would not be right. I mean, in the Army because this does not preclude me from holding another position in the government or whatever.

[Maturana] And what do you plan to do?

[Ortega] Once I complete my historic mission as head of the Armed Forces, I will do research and publish the results. The history of the revolutionary process in Nicaragua since the 19th century is well under way. I own a very rich and impressive file. I have kept thousands of documents for more than 20 years and which I have not had time to study and organize because I have been busy. I think I must make a contribution to the effort of Nicaraguan historians. I do not regard myself as a political activist of the Sandinist Party, nor do I wish to. Rather, I regard myself as a person with the duty to give the Nicaraguan people better tools to understand what being a Nicaraguan entails. I think this is what the people want to find out. They want to know whether I will be in the Army forever. I will not, according to the law or my feelings. If there is anything I want to be enrolled in in life, it is Nicaragua, the revolution, patriotism, the revolution [as published], and democracy.

[Maturana] You talked of meetings with personalities, who are they?

[Ortega] Recently, I have been holding some meetings with different personalities in order to contribute to seeking an immediate solution to the problems besetting us. After the Army's October statement, a number of things have happened, making contact with different sectors all the more necessary.

Meetings have been held with Ramiro Gurdian, authorized by the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen leaders. I can tell you that the mere fact that the Army, through me, is holding talks with these sectors and political leaders, Sandinists included, is very important because they reinforce communications among Nicaraguans. We will also meet with the former Nicaraguan Resistance members, the National Workers Front, and other unions.

[Maturana] What is the purpose?

[Ortega] To listen to their concerns on the topic of the Army, more than to learn how they see us. The meetings also serve to get a view of the moment and the role of the EPS to achieve the broader objectives the people seek. We do not just want to listen but to discuss as well with those sectors our proposals so they can have a fairer and more correct view of us and the historic role the EPS is playing.

The situation Nicaragua is experiencing is very dangerous, but if it is handled with maturity, skill, and daring, it can be overcome. The topic of the Army has been highly politicized, and the fact is there are people expressing their views on the Army during a specific time, which shows how sensitive this topic is in the country's life.

We cannot go on having the levels of political polarization that have existed to date because they fuel pressure from abroad. In recent months, the constant pressure from reactionary sectors in the United States has been felt. Officials of the current government, which has a few days left, have been stepping up efforts to impose conditions on Nicaragua and exert maximum pressure on this government in need of international aid.

They call for dramatic changes in the Army because they feel it should have never been created. They fought eight years of war to destroy and replace it with one submissive to their interests. Now they seek to behead us. Those in and out of Nicaragua who espouse the cause of abolishing the Army are not against armies but against this Army.

Those exerting pressure (for the ouster of the Army chief) have even driven people like (Mundo) Jarquin and others, who are nonetheless a minority in the country, to fall for that ploy, making them take misguided, antinational, and unpatriotic steps. We know full well of the desperate attempts promoted specifically by Bernard Aronson (assistant secretary of state for inter-American Affairs). The United States stepped up the pressure during President Chamorro's visit to El Salvador, as well as during the visit by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo to the United States. It is no coincidence that Jarquin's remarks were known here on that very day.

At a time when the Chamorro government is making colossal efforts to try to resolve an economic problem that has accumulated over the past 20 years, not to say the past century, it finds itself boycotted by the pressure we thought had ended with the departure of the police chiefs, an event that supposedly was going to expedite the disbursement of the money promised, but it did not happen that way. To date, the total disbursement has not been made, and now those pressuring the country want to release the money still withheld by biting out one more piece.

What I hope for on the threshold of the new century is to have a more respectful relationship between the United States and Nicaragua because the two of us will continue to be here and remain where we are. I frankly told that to Congressman Bill Alexander.

The Army has been a stabilizing factor. Pressure on the EPS does not help stability and is not legitimate or

viable. The Armed Forces require the complete support of the nation to reach the security we need in the face of 1993.

[Maturana] It is said 1993 will be a crucial year. What is your opinion?

[Ortega] If we do not manage to start our development in 1993, this country will be in such a condition that it will not do any good for anyone to win the elections in the future.

We must stop being [word indistinct]. If we fail, what good does it do to win the elections to rule over remains and poverty? It would be a country of unfortunate people, similar to the ones you see in Africa. That could very well happen to us, if we are incapable of developing in 1993.

The great lesson in the last 20 years is that the stands adopted by Somoza and the Sandinists—and we are not going to discuss if these were just—were not good. The truth is that these measures affected a lot of people, and there was no reason to hurt them in that manner. History and the elections showed us that was not the way.

A feasible Nicaragua is not one in which the 40 percent of the citizens who voted for Sandinism are removed and in which the party is forced to disappear, by sending all Sandinists into exile or eliminating them. That is not possible. We must accept what we are, because we cannot force ourselves to disappear.

[Maturana] Do you believe conditions are ripe for a National Agreement?

[Ortega] Any agreement—that in my opinion should be under way by early January 1993—should consider that we are all necessary, that we all have a role to play in the Nicaragua we want to save, reconstruct, and strengthen. Later, we must create the wealth that we were unable to generate in the past and then proceed to distribute it in a more equitable manner.

The year 1993 is vital for the process of total pacification and economic recovery, and January is vital for starting 1993 well. We must support the government and give it an opportunity to rule. The only thing that we must exclude from this process is an extremist attitude.

Without [word indistinct) the strength of the workers struggle, we must set aside the methods of violent struggle that wear out in the long run and become very unpopular. These may be used only as extreme measures.

We must create a political atmosphere that will give security to economic dynamics and will entail stability for the country.

Correction to Statistics Reported

93CA0034C

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Statistics Reported," published in the 24 December Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 10: Column one, only headline, make read: *Lack of Leadership Viewed (correcting headline)

Panama

Cruz Warns of Possible Attempts on Life

PA3112211392 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 31 Dec 92 p 1A

[Report by Eduardo Soto P.]

[Text] Rogelio Cruz, the attorney general who was removed from his post, stated on 30 December that he does not rule out an attempt on his life "because I am a threat" to certain interests. He made Jaime Abad, director of the Judicial Technical Police (PTJ), Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles, "and all his gang of lackeys" responsible for anything that may happen to him.

According to Cruz, Abad took away all his bodyguards when the solicitor general ordered his removal, thus endangering his life.

Cruz noted that after the house arrest was lifted, Abad gave him protection at the court's request. However, it is a "limited security" because the bodyguards are not the same he used to have.

"Just like I was the target of an attack while I was the attorney general," Cruz added, "it is very probable that an attack will be carried out against me."

Cruz believes that his enemies could kill him because "I am a threat" to their economic, political, and personal ambitions. He feels he could be killed because of a lack of protection and blames the government for it, specifically, PTJ Director Abad who is in charge of the personal security of top officials.

"I blame those I am investigating for criminal actions for any attacks against me," Cruz said, clearly hinting at Carles, and the "gang" made up of Eusebio Marchosky, Alvin Weeden, Rodrigo Arosemena, and Gonzalo Menendez Franco.

"They know that very soon they will not only lose their jobs but their freedom and the possibility to achieve all they yearn," Cruz said without explaining what is sought from those he accuses of being "criminals."

"I blame them, as of this moment, for any attacks of which I may be a target," warned Cruz, the top official at the Attorney General's Office up until 24 December.

Gonzalez Criticizes Cruz Request for Public Trial

PA0301182193 Panama City MAGAZINE DOMINICAL EL SIGLO in Spanish 3 Jan 93 p 5

[Report by Ruben Dario Diaz]

[Text] Legislator Leo Gonzalez, president of the National Assembly Drug Trafficking Control and Eradication Commission, said suspended Attorney General Rogelio Cruz is trying to put on a show by requesting a public trial, much like those held at the Nuevo Panama stadium, so he can talk like a gossiping laundry woman about matters that have no legal basis.

Gonzalez warned that he will return in full force after the Christmas holidays to persecute Cruz and his accomplices such as [Carlos] Herrera Moran [former Third District Attorney] and Ariel Alvarado [removed Secretary General for Narcotics at the Attorney General's Office]. Gonzalez also confirmed that he will do everything within his power to keep those people from escaping the justice.

Gonzalez, a Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement legislator, said Rogelio Cruz' request for a public trial is part of a strategy to say that political deals have been made, which is totally false. Cruz would be better off to work on how he is going to defend himself for authorizing the release of over $30 million in frozen funds, Gonzalez said.

"Cruz says he has reports and evidence, but if I were to use all the reports I have against him, they would fill a book the size of a telephone directory," he said.

Lastly, legislator Leo Gonzalez stressed that Rogelio Cruz is now acting like a "gossiping laundry woman," saying that he has nasty information, such as the Chaveri case, to try and involve Supreme Court President Dr. Carlos Lucas Lopez, but he does not offer any evidence like we do," [no opening quotation mark as published] and that has resulted in Cruz' removal.

Acting Attorney General Dismisses PTJ Detectives

PA3112222892 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Dec 92 p 1a

[Article by Manuel Alvarez C. and Vilma E.Figueroa B.]

[Text] Acting Attorney General Jorge Valdes announced on 30 December the dismissal of the 19 Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) detectives who had been reinstated to their posts by removed Attorney General Rogelio Cruz. These detectives had tested positive for drug abuse.

Valdes made this decision because in his opinion the 19 detectives who had tested positive infringe on the requirements necessary to hold a post in a department of the Attorney General's Office.

Previously, PTJ Director Jaime Abad had fired the detectives as they had tested positive for cocaine abuse. Nevertheless, Rogelio Cruz subsequently reconsidered their situation and reinstated them to their post, arguing that he had not been consulted in the first place.

The acting attorney general points out that according to the Judicial Code, in addition to meeting the general requirements for each position, a medical certificate is required to be appointed to any position in the judicial branch or at the Attorney General's Office.

This medical certificate must contain a record of negative testing for drug abuse and that there is no illness or incapacity that could prevent fulfilling the post. In addition, a police record issued 30 days prior to the appointment is also required.

Meanwhile, Valdes stressed that it is not his duty to carry out an overall restructuring of the Attorney General's Office while there are legal proceedings pending against the attorney general and until the same are cleared up.

"I have only been in my post for 24 hours so I am just starting to study everything regarding the main issues that concern the Attorney General's Office. Above all, I want to itemize all the cases that are pending, those that have been held up, and the reason for this situation," Valdes noted.

Valdes added that the post of secretary general for narcotics at the Attorney General's Office has been declared vacant as regular Secretary General Ariel Alvarado was removed. Norberto Castillo has been appointed to replace Alvarado.

Meanwhile, PTJ Deputy Director Carlos Landero said he considered positive the dismissal of the 19 detectives who had tested positive for drug abuse.

"I am totally convinced that the dismissals made are to improve the efficiency and maintain discipline and respect [at the PTJ]," Landero noted.

The PTJ deputy director noted that "regular drug abuse does not fit in with an officer's duty. An officer must be a serious and honest individual who cannot engage in illegal actions."

On Cruz' decision [to reinstate the dismissed detectives], Landero said: "He may have had his reasons, but we insisted that those officers had to be dismissed as they tarnish the institution's honor and reputation."

Reports Allegedly Indicate Ongoing Terrorism

PA0401004193 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Jan 92 p 2A

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] An important source at the Attorney General's Office reported that the wave of terrorist attacks that have taken place in the past two years could worsen as of 9 January, when subversive elements could begin to target those persons opposed to the amnesty bill.

The source, who decided to talk on the condition that he remain anonymous, told LA PRENSA that the state security agencies are on red alert status to deal with the situation.

At the beginning of this week, unknown persons blew up four electrical towers in Canazas, Veraguas, which resulted in a blackout throughout the country. So far, none of the four alleged subversive groups operating in the country have claimed responsibility for the attack, which caused $750,000 in losses.

The confidential source added: "The state security organizations have not made any public statements regarding the latest attack, which means they are on a silent red alert."

According to the source, "some intelligence reports establish that the terrorists intend to increase their attacks as of 9 January to take advantage of nationalist feelings and dissatisfaction against President Guillermo Endara's administration."

The source revealed that meetings have been taking place every Sunday throughout Panama City between former soldiers and "other persons who support the military."

The source referred to the attempt by the National Assembly to approve an amnesty bill that would favor approximately 800 former supporters of the military regime, including 50 persons currently being held in custody, charged with having perpetrated common crimes.

A guerrilla group called the 20 December Movement (M-20), allegedly made up of former Panamanian military personnel, emerged after the U.S. troops who invaded Panama in 1989 toppled General Manuel Noriega. The M-20 has sworn to topple Endara and attack U.S. Army civilian and military targets in Panama.

"All reports indicate that the attacks will increase as of 9 January, chiefly because the amnesty law was not passed," the source asserted.

It has been leaked that in 1993 attacks will be aimed against "government officials, legislators, and the people and politicians who rejected the amnesty law," he added.

Regarding the attack against the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electricity towers, the source said "people having superior technical knowledge and who knew how to handle explosives" had participated in this action. He added that the terrorists could have been members of one of the elite groups of the dismantled Panamanian Army, such as the Special Antiterror Service Unit or any other.

The source said the attackers "are wicked criminals who are members of a rising movement that can cause a lot of harm."

That is why "we have to focus our attention on the group. The situation is very serious. The group members are not playing games. They have good organizational expertise, strategic and technical knowledge, and are taking advantage of the discontent in the country," he added.

Foreigners Suspected in Terrorist Attacks in Sep

PA0301224193 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 3 Jan 93 p1A

[Text] An alleged member of the Shining Path, a Colombian, and a Nicaraguan are presumably responsible for the three attacks in September 1992 against the Electoral Tribunal, the Foreign Ministry, and Tocumen Airport.

That revelation is included in the report submitted by a female covert agent of the Judicial Technical Police (PTJ), who participated in the "Susu Operation," prepared by the PTJ Operations Planning Office [Oficina de Planificacion Operativa].

Said agent, identified as "Gitana," said she had warned the PTJ ahead of time about the foreigners' plans to carry out the terrorist attacks, but the corresponding preventive measures were not taken.

The covert agent's report also noted that the lover of a Colombian gangster managed to penetrate the security around President Guillermo Endara, whom she met posing as a reporter.

Commentary Says Endara 'Pushed Aside' by Parties

PA0301192693 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Jan 93 p 10A

[Commentary by Jorge Gamboa Arosemena]

[Text] When we analyze the significance of what took place on 24 December, we must reach the categorical conclusion that Endara has been pushed aside or that he lost what little power he had, if he ever had any.

If we go back to the beginning of the now defunct triumvirate, we notice they held power as if it were political booty. The Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement [Molirena] took over the economic sector and the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] took over the social sector. The Liberals received two ministries (one being the Presidency Ministry, which allowed them to know what was going to happen as soon as the president made his decisions), as well as an important unpaid consultant position. Endara and his law firm were left to organize the judicial system and the Attorney General's Office. The foreign service was divided evenly between Molirena and the Liberals.

As time passed and appetites became unleashed, some came to believe that the Endara, Solis and Delgado law firm considered the influential Attorney General's Office as its most valued asset, a key element in the administration of justice (completely absent in this country) as well as a springboard from which to receive information related to the movement of legal and illegal funds and

promoters of corruption, as pointed out even by the empire's ambassador [U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton]. With the ouster of the PDC, the Arnulfists (Endara's alleged party) were able to control four more portfolios. That, however, did not give Endara any more influence to challenge the controls exerted by the plutocrats over key public administration positions with the objective of increasing their fortunes. On the other hand, the Attorney General's Office was in a position to dispute those controls.

Plutocrats have traditionally been called the dominant oligarchy. With the exception of one brief period, they have been in control of the Republic since its foundation. These gentlemen (?) can now be found in the highest echelons of all profit-oriented organizations such as Molirena, the Authentic Liberal Party, the National Liberal Party (taken over by Roberto Aleman), and the Revolutionary Democratic Party [PRD]. All of these parties manipulate state administration on behalf of their own anti-Christian interests instead of propitiating the common good.

As Panama is a service oriented country due to its position as a transit point, the National Customs Department and the Attorney General's office are key positions from which to profit and run things. This is where the dispute between Endara's beneficiaries, mainly middle of the road, unaffiliated law firms opposed to those law firms that own the political parties (?), and their intention to control the aforementioned positions originates.

The big firms are winning the dispute. That is why Cruz and Endara fell. To ride out the storm, Endara has been forced to use Cruz as a scapegoat by accepting Solicitor General Ballesteros' improper handling of the Cruz affair. Endara ordered armed men to surround the Attorney General's Office to arrest Cruz and hurriedly appointed the assistant attorney general (member of the Liberal law firm Franco y Franco). In turn, the newly appointed attorney general [Jorge Ramon Valdes] appointed another Liberal as drug secretary, who makes the "mistake" of saying that he is prepared to resign from the party if required to occupy the position.

Cruz has tried to protect Endara as a strategy to save himself. As both are part of the group being pushed aside, if one falls, the other also falls.

Real power in Panama is not necessarily found in the presidency. One only has to recall the puppet presidents of the dictatorship. Real public power is controlled by the private economic powers of Molirena, the Authentic Liberal Party, the National Liberal Party, and the PRD. They already control the cabinet, National Assembly, Supreme Court of Justice, Comptroller General's Office, Attorney General's Office, Judicial Technical Police (headed by Jaime Abad), National Customs Department, and the Colon Free Zone. Cruz fell, and Endara fell as well. He now remains in the Presidential Palace as a prisoner of the real power until such a time as said power and its external mentors decide.

While all of this is taking place, socioeconomic poverty increases in Panama, but the real power sectors control the provisional import permits [permisos previos], the company registration administration (paper companies used for all sorts of chicanery), the granting of benefits (sacrifices public officials, but a the same time winning over the money exchange offices and the biggest tax payers), the refinery contract (betraying national interests), the amnesty bill, political campaign budget, and so forth.

Editorial on Clinton Cabinet Selection Process

PA0301043693 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 2 Jan 93 p4a

[Editorial: "The Clinton Government"]

[Text] Shortly before the end of 1992, President-elect Bill Clinton concluded the selection of the team of secretaries and advisers who will guide him, starting in 1993, along the cliffs of national and international policy.

The nomination of the new Secretary of State Warren Christopher stresses the dominant presence of political aides of the liberal wing of the Jimmy Carter administration.

So that no doubts are harbored regarding a return to the past, Clinton said in the first half of December that the United States needs "new and daring thinking in foreign policy matters."

The president-elect's explanation was indispensable since more than one observer has stated that the future secretary of state participated in the negotiations with Iran to rescue the U.S. hostages, negotiations that did not constitute an example of how to treat a theocratic regime like that of the ayatollahs. The liberal Democratic ranks are countering that Christopher has matured in highly charged negotiations by advising the Los Angeles mayor in dealing with racial conflict. On the other hand, the Clinton strategy to recognize the new ethnic reality in his country can be seen in the appointment to his first cabinet of two Hispanics and a black woman. He also appointed a white lawyer as ambassador to the United Nations. The Clinton effort to undo prejudice against racial minorities and build a bridge of balance in the correlation of sexes is visible.

The stress he placed on the urgency of state and private investments to overcome the recession has positioned Clinton as the conciliatory focal point of traditionally adverse currents. With a pragmatic and modern point of view, Clinton chose a joint effort between the state and private enterprise for a combination of the theories of Lord Keynes and Wall Street. The new Democratic administration will be installed in a few days, and we will see his balancing efforts and synthesis of political and economic issues put into action.

Argentina

Government Reasserts Rights Over Falklands

PY0301204793 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1511 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Jan (TELAM)—The national government has reasserted the Argentine Republic's sovereign rights over the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich islands and the surrounding maritime waters and reiterated its "firm determination" to continue making progress in the dialogue with the United Kingdom "in order to develop a relationship of mutual confidence and broad cooperation in the southwestern Atlantic."

A communique issued today by the Argentine Foreign Ministry states that "on this 3 January, the Argentine people and government reassert their sovereign rights over the Malvinas, South Sandwich, and South Georgia islands and the surrounding areas."

"The Argentine Government reasserts its firm determination to continue making progress in the dialogue with the United Kingdom in order to develop a relationship of mutual confidence and broad cooperation in the southwestern Atlantic."

The communique goes on to state that "Argentina is convinced that the path of peace and negotiations in the future will make it possible to reach a fair and definite solution to the territorial dispute."

The communique ends by stating that "at the same time the Argentine Government reiterates its permanent willingness to maintain a fruitful dialogue and to cooperate with the Malvinas Islands' inhabitants and to promote and safeguard their interests and well-being. This attitude is in keeping with its determination to promote the prosperity and well-being of all the inhabitants of Argentine territory."

Argentina Recognizes Czech, Slovak Republics

PY0201125293 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2342 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Jan (TELAM)—In an official communique released here today, the Argentine Government has recognized the Czech and Slovak Republics as free and independent states.

The communique, which was released by the Argentine Foreign Ministry, states that the Argentine Government took this decision in response to a petition—filed on 4 December 1992—whereby the former Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Czechoslovakia asked Argentina to formally acknowledge the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Czechoslovakia's division into two independent and sovereign states took effect today at 0000 local time.

The communique issued in Buenos Aires states that the Argentine Government's decision to recognize the new republics, "which was announced to the appropriate authorities in advance, follows the guidelines established by the international community to seek recognition by other states."

In conclusion, the communique notes that "at the same time, the Argentine Republic and the Czech and Slovak Republics—the capital cities of which are Prague and Bratislava, respectively—have decided to establish diplomatic relations in order to continue furthering the former ties of friendship existing between Argentina and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic."

Two U.S. Planes Received for Surveillance

PY0101000193 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1032 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Dec (NA)—The most recent acquisition of the Argentine Army is two multipurpose planes donated by the U.S. Air Force [as received]. The aircraft are equipped for intelligence purposes and for fighting drug trafficking.

The ceremony to acknowledge receipt of the aircraft took place at the Army aviation field, located at Campo de Mayo [Buenos Aires Province], and was presided over by the Army aviation commander, Colonel Eduardo Lance; and by the deputy commander, Colonel Roberto Yanzi.

Col. Lance said that the U.S. Government has donated 20 Mohawk OV-1D planes to Argentina. The two planes in question are the first batch, and the rest will gradually follow suit next year. Each plane is worth approximately $4 million fully equipped (as they were donated).

Col. Lance explained that "this type of aircraft is used for air surveillance during ground battles, facilitates liaisons between command posts, and is able to land and take off on any type of terrain."

He also said that "these planes that were donated by the U.S. Army are very reliable and are fitted with the same turbines used for Bell UH-1H helicopters."

Col. Lance pointed out that "planes similar to these were used in Vietnam" and added that these two planes "took an active part in the recent Persian Gulf crisis, as each one participated in five missions."

He stated that even though "the planes can be fitted with missiles, the agreement signed with the United States provides that they be used for surveillance and dragnet operations, rather than being fitted with lethal weapons."

Col. Yanzi stated that "Argentina is the first country in the world to receive this type of aircraft, fitted with lateral scanning radar, sensors, and infrared cameras." He then underscored the fact that "enemy radar find it quite difficult to detect" this type of aircraft, which "is able to fly at a low altitude."

Col. Yanzi added that "the planes' maximum speed is 420 km per hour, with a nearly five-hour range, and a flying operating range of 1,627 km."

At the end of the ceremony, a G-2222 military plane was declared in a state of emergency, but was then able to land without any problem.

The pilot of this plane told the control tower that he was having trouble with the "landing gear." A squad of federal police firemen assigned to that region subsequently deployed a major security operation and sent an ambulance to the site.

The plane overflew the runway twice until it was authorized to land, which it managed to do without any problem, though it was followed by two fire engines and the ambulance while it taxied across the tarmac.

Antinarcotics Secretariat Officials Resign

PY0101220593 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2233 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 30 Dec (NA)—Two officials of the Programming and Coordination Secretariat for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and for the Antinarcotics Struggle resigned from their posts today and will be replaced by other two officials who have already been serving in this secretariat. The resignations were tendered by Antonio Castro Lecptaler, the under secretary for control and legislation, and Carlos Cagliotti, the under secretary for prevention and assistance. They will respectively be replaced by Inspector Vicente Brizuela, retired, the former director for control and legislation, and Claudio Cabrera, the former deputy director for assistance.

Federal Judge Acquits Air Force Chief of Staff

PY0201124893 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1944 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 1 Jan (TELAM)—Brigadier General Jose Julia, the Air Force chief of staff, was finally acquitted in a case involving an alleged dereliction of duty when the federal courts passed judgment shortly before the end of 1992 that no crime had been committed in an unsuccessful purchase of aeronautic material through a direct contract.

On the morning of 31 December, Federal Judge Martin Irurzun passed judgment, making the final acquittal without the indictment of anyone, in a case opened in June 1991 to investigate alleged irregularities in a direct contract (that was finally unsuccessful) with three U.S. private companies that were scheduled to supply the Air Force with spare parts and auto parts worth $18 million.

Irurzun's investigation was prompted by a petition filed with the federal courts by Brigadier Tomas Rodriguez, the former Air Force deputy chief of staff. Rodriguez filed charges against his commander, Julia, over alleged irregularities in the drawing up of a contract to purchase material from three U.S. companies. [passage omitted]

Modin Political Office Target of Bomb Attack

PY3112192092 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2140 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Dec (NA)—The Movement for Dignity and Independence (Modin) executive board today reported an incendiary bomb attack at a Modin office in Santiago del Estero Province. Modin believes the attackers seek "to intimidate worthy Argentines."

Modin officials repudiated the attack and reported it to the local courts. They claim this attack is part of a campaign "to intimidate worthy men who permanently stand against the bipartisan, unitarian, and centralist system."

Modin is headed by Aldo Rico, the former leader of the Holy Week and Monte Caseros uprisings. He stressed that this system "no longer follows the path of growth and social justice, and is plunging the nation into impoverishment and dependence."

The Buenos Aires Province office of Modin reported that provincial officials "are reportedly seeking legal subtleties to prevent calling municipal elections in the district of Florencio Varela because a conclusion has reportedly been reached through which Modin could achieve victory."

In a communique signed by the Modin political board of Buenos Aires Province, Rico's movement emphasized: "Great concern reportedly exists over the increasing number of Modin militants, which is notably causing mid-level Justicialist and Radical [UCR—Radical Civic Union] leaders to drop out."

Bolivia

Alleged Tupac Katari Leader Detained

PY3112173592 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Report by Edwin Mallon from Cochabamba]

[Text] An alleged Tupac Katari Guerrilla Army leader, who perpetrated the dynamite attacks against the Cochabamba courthouse and against the Santa Ana de Calacala Church here in Cochabamba a few days ago, was detained a few hours ago. The detainee's name is Ana Laura Zeballos Duran. Her nom de guerre is Rosita.

Ana Laura Zeballos Duran was a catechist in the remote town of Aiquile in Cochabamba Department.

The Investigative Police specialized center promised to supply more information on this case within the next few hours.

The possibility of a new dragnet throughout Cochabamba Department to find more Tupac Katari Guerrilla Army members has not been ruled out. An extensive operation is under way.

Senate Approves 26 Military Promotions

PY0101165093 La Paz HOY in Spanish 19 Dec 92 p 6

[Excerpts] Senate President Guillermo Fortun has reported that the Senate has approved the promotion of 26 officers of the Armed Forces. It rejected one promotion and left three cases pending. [passage omitted]

According to the Senate report the following officers have been promoted to division general:

Army: Reynaldo Caceres, Oscar Roca, Edmundo Ballivian, Humberto Lopez, Alfredo Angulo, Viterman Baldivieso, Jose Cardenas, and Roberto Canelas.

Air Force: Roberto Gutierrez, Rafael Ortuno, Emilio Antelo, and Jose Montero.

Navy: Molina Padilla was promoted to vice admiral.

The following officers have been promoted to brigadier general:

Army: Eduardo Vasuez, Marcelo Aguirre, Gustavo Guardi, and Jose Balderrama.

Air Force: Carlos Molina, Rafael Bersain, Oscar Sanchez, Jose Molina, Raul Gantier, Ernesto Pereira, Orlando Perez, Hugo Via, and Enrique Cabrera.

According to Senate President Fortun the three pending promotions will be resolved in the first half of January.

Brazil

Planning Minister Discloses Economic Program

PY3112161192 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] One of the main points of President Itamar Franco's economic program provides for the creation of 2 million job opportunities per year beginning in 1993.

The government program disclosed today in Brasilia by Planning Minister Paulo Haddad also provides measures to fight inflation and poverty.

Minister Haddad said the government program's main objective is to improve the Brazilian peoples' living standards, especially for the 60 million Brazilians who live in extreme poverty.

Among some of the measures announced by Minister Haddad are the creation of 2 million job opportunities per year and the implementation of a special glass of milk program for school children.

President Franco plans to meet with the economic team every two weeks to discuss the reform of the financial system.

The approval of the fiscal reform is one of the short-term priority issues, while the decentralization of public administration is one of the government's strategies to fight corruption. The resumption in investment will go hand in hand with the plan to fight inflation.

[Begin Haddad recording] No one should expect a sudden drop in the rate of inflation. We would very much like inflation to be approximately 10 percent by the end of 1993. [end recording]

During the news conference, Minister Haddad repeatedly referred to the need for the quick approval of the fiscal reform program, which will allow the implementation of two basic projects the government has in mind: the recovery of the highway network, a biannual program amounting to $2.5 billion; and the housing program, which will require an expenditure of $1.5 billion per year.

Minister Haddad's news conference has just ended. Haddad made it quite clear that sectorial agreements are the keynote of this new economic policy. In January the government intends to reach an agreement with the automobile industry, which has already voiced interest in an agreement to produce a cheap car for the working class. The quality of the vehicle will be the same, but less sophisticated, and therefore it will be much cheaper. Another agreement will be with the agroindustrial sector for the production of foodstuffs that will make it possible to offer the people a 30 to 40 percent cheaper family basket. In exchange, the government will reduce the taxes paid by this sector.

Through agreements of this nature, the government will resume the country's growth, because it will create new job opportunities and will benefit the non-consumer sector of the population.

Petition for Detention of PC Farias Denied

PY3112155692 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] The Federal Supreme Court has denied a petition to order the preventive detention of PC [Paulo Cesar] Farias, Claudio Vieira, and Roberto Carlos Maciel. The court approved, however, an acceleration in notifying all suspect of involvement in the PC scheme, including former President Fernando Collor, of the investigation.

The petition for preventive detention and for a speedier inquiry was made by Attorney General Aristides Junqueira. Justice Sepulveda Pertence argued that preventive detention was not adequate at this time. Pertence added that the preventive detention of any one of the nine individuals involved in the scheme, including former President Fernando Collor, can be ordered at any time. The lawyers of the nine individuals involved in the

inquiry will have 15 days after they are notified to answer the report. The period begins on 1 February 1993, the day the court returns from a recess.

Franco To Meet With All Party Presidents

PY0101132293 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Dec 92 p 4

[Article by Cristiana Lobo]

[Excerpt] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco's meeting with the presidents of all political parties at the Granja do Torto [presidential residence in Brasilia] on 8 January could be the first step toward a grand political understanding. The event is already being compared to the Moncloa Pact in Spain. The difference with past failed political pact attempts is that this time the idea came from the political parties. It was first proposed at a meeting between PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] President Tasso Jereissati and PT [Workers Party] President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and was later extended to other parties. The pact would be forged around an action program agreed upon by the executive and legislative branches.

Jereissati and Lula suggested actions on three fronts: Stability of the economic rules of the game and a fight against inflation; better distribution of wealth and social programs; and a broad housing program for the entire country. Itamar Franco, in turn, will propose a list of bills the government wants congress to approve quickly. The first bill on that list would be the fiscal adjustment bill, which is already included in the agenda of Congress' special session scheduled to begin on 11 January.

The understanding will also involve entrepreneurs, with PSDB support, and labor unions with PT mediation. Franco would also try to involve other civilian groups such as the OAB [Brazilian Attorneys Association], CNBB [National Conference of Brazilian Bishops], and ABI [Brazilian Press Association]. [passage omitted]

Admits Possibility of Changing Course

PY0301223193 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Jan 92 p 3

[Article by Jorge Bastos Moreno]

[Text] Brasilia—Announcing his total willingness to listen to the suggestions made by the party presidents he will meet on 8 January in Granja do Torto, President Itamar Franco on 31 December told O GLOBO: "It is time to tell the truth." As a result of the most effective political pact articulation ever in recent years, Franco even admitted the possibility of changing the course of his government if the parties present proposals that can help resolve the serious social problems affecting the country.

Franco said, the time has arrived to clearly speak of what we want for Brazil. I want the party presidents to suggest what they want for the country. It is time to tell the truth and hold frank talks.

Asked whether he fears if the expected results—that is, the search for a partnership government—are not obtained, considering that almost all the party presidents are potential candidates to succeed him, Franco said: I believe the parties will not put other interests before those of major interest to the country. We have just faced an institutional crisis, which is a situation that can be overcome, but I do not know if we will be able to solve a social crisis with the same easiness. We must be alert about the split in the social layer, which leads a great part of the population to complete poverty. Irrespective of parties, ideologies, or projects, we must overcome this problem.

Franco has great confidence that the parties' proposals will help the government find immediate responses to the country's problems; he even refused to reply on whether this eventual support could be conditioned to the participation of these parties in the ministerial cabinet.

The agreement will be reached at the top levels. The government is open to any understanding or proposal that can help solve the country's problems. It is even willing to change its course.

President Wants Military Policy Established

PY0101135993 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Dec 92 p 4

[Excerpt] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco wants to convene—even in January if possible—the Armed Forces High Command made up with all Army, Navy, and Aeronautics officer generals to establish a military policy. Franco also wants to discuss during the meeting the financing of military projects and the salary problem.

The military did not like the 100 percent adjustment announced for public employees. They claim the salary equity bill did not benefit them, adding that the new salary adjustment will merely serve to increase the salary difference between them and legislative and judicial branch employees. [passage omitted]

Franco Has 34 Percent Approval Rating in Poll

PY3112212692

[Editorial Report] Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese on 23 December on page 12 of Section 1 carries a 600-word article by Alon Feuerwerker on a Datafolha national opinion poll which shows that "President Itamar Franco has managed to instill in Brazilians a moderate sense of optimism regarding what the new government can achieve."

The article says that the opinion poll, the first one since Collor's suspension from office, was conducted on 15-16

December in 122 Brazilian cities throughout the nation with the exception of cities in Amapa and Roraima, and it included 2,500 people from age 16 to the elderly.

The opinion poll shows that 55 percent of those surveyed believe that Franco's government "is capable of resolving the current economic problems, but it needs more time." Today, the article says, 34 percent of the people approve of Franco's administration while before the impeachment proceedings began, only 18 percent of the people approved of Collor's administration.

The article adds that despite Franco's efforts to divorce himself from Collor, his main supporters continue to be those who supported Collor; that is, 39 percent in northeastern states; 34 percent in rural areas; 38 percent in low-income, poorly educated sectors; and 37 percent among those earning earning salaries equal to five minimum salaries.

The poll shows that support for Franco declined to 31 percent in state capitals and the southern states. Only 23 percent of university graduates and 27 percent of those earning salaries equal to 10 minimum salaries describe Franco's government as "good or excellent."

The article adds that 40 percent of Franco's supporters come from parties which had backed the Sarney government, such as the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party and the Liberal Front Party; and that only 28 percent of Social Democratic Party members endorsed Franco's government. Support for Franco among members of the Workers Party and the Brazilian Social Democracy Party stood at 32 and 31 percent, respectively.

Chile

Minister Says U.S. Ruling 'Unsatisfactory'

PY0201180893 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss said U.S. Federal Judge (Serbic Huton's) ruling in the case of the poisoned grapes was unsatisfactory. The judge ruled that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is not responsible for Chile's loss of nearly $210 million for not being able to sell its fruit abroad when one grape was found to contain cyanide.

Minister Krauss said the ruling does not satisfy Chile's legitimate claim, adding that the country can seek other courses of action to get the proper compensation:

[Begin Krauss recording] The ruling does not accept Chile's legitimate claims. It does not only affect Chilean entrepreneurs; it also affects the country. Naturally, the ruling is not satisfactory to the government. We will study what to do next. Diplomatic channels are still open, and particularly now that there will be a change in administration on 20 January. It is possible to present the case at a diplomatic level. There are still other places where we can present our legitimate claims. [end recording]

The minister said the Brian Commission might study the matter, adding that it was also possible that the new U.S. administration might change its position on Chile's claim.

Foreign Minister Reviews 1992 Foreign Policy

PY3112193092 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Report by Carmen Castro]

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma stated today that next March the government will review the unresolved issue of the border with Argentina in the continental glaciers region. Silva Cimma today submitted a report on Chile's foreign policy in 1992.

In light of reports that Chile might unilaterally submit the case to arbitration, Silva Cimma stated:

[Begin recording] [Silva Cimma] That would not be a viable solution. We will continue until next March to study possible solutions so that the treaty signed by Presidents Aylwin and Menem may be ratified by both congresses.

[Unidentified reporter] What will happen in March?

[Silva Cimma] If by March we conclude that we have not been successful, we will review the problem once more in the search for a solution with Argentina through common accord. [end recording]

Silva Cimma assessed Chile's foreign policy and pointed out that its most salient aspects were the sound relations with neighboring countries. He announced that agreements will be signed with Peruvian Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente, who will visit Chile, including one on investment protection. Silva Cimma added that other subjects will also be discussed, such as pending issues arising from the 1929 Treaty, namely, the pier [malecon], customs, and the railway in Chinchorro.

Silva Cimma then described Chile's relations with Bolivia as sensational as far as results are concerned. He pointed out that Chile maintains relations with Bolivia through their respective consulates. He said:

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] The policy of rapprochement currently being implemented with Bolivia and what we have so far accomplished is quite extraordinary. During the past century our relations with Bolivia have never been as harmonious as they have been over the past three years. This is advantageous for both countries. [end recording]

In spite of these positive results, Silva Cimma could not help voicing his disappointment over what he called a

generalized disregard for the progress made by the Foreign Ministry in the coordination of the economic policy and international trade. He explained that the International Economic Coordination Committee has been handling this subject for eight months. This committee is presided over by Silva Cimma and made up of the economy, finance, agriculture, and planning ministers; the secretary general of the Presidency; the secretary general of Government; and businessmen.

International Reserves Reach Record Level

PY3112192292 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Summary] The Central Bank has reported that international reserves now amount to the record figure of $9 billion. The great increase in the reserves registered in December is part of the country's positive macroeconomic situation. Chile has become the leading economic country in the region, with 10 percent economic growth.

Colombia

Bomb Defused at Antioquia Police Headquarters

PA0101175893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Jan 92

[Text] Medellin police defused a car bomb loaded with 150 kg of plastic explosives on 31 December. Thus the Antioquia Department capital had a peaceful morning. The end of 1992 in Medellin might have been the end of the Antioquia police if no one had been able to defuse a car bomb loaded with 150 kg of dynamite that was about to enter police facilities.

A man was driving the vehicle, a Monza that had been stolen last week for this purpose. Under the pretense of bringing food for a prisoner, the man attempted to place the car bomb in front of Antioquia Police headquarters, where police corps leaders had gathered.

If the man had achieved his goal, nothing would have been left standing at the site. The 150 kg of dynamite included shrapnel hidden in two milk jugs, which would have been activated by remote control from a nearby location.

Authorities Arrest Medellin Cartel Leader

PA3112180192 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Authorities believe they have dealt a harsh blow to narcoterrorism with the arrest of John Jairo Posada Valencia, alias Titi, in Medellin.

Cooperation from the citizenry has again helped Antioquia authorities to deliver a new blow to the structure of the so-called Medellin cartel.

Telephone calls led police to Posada Valencia, whom authorities consider one of the leaders of the Medellin Cartel.

Elite police and Army troops captured Posada Valencia in Medellin on 30 December. According to the authorities, they had been following Titi for more than two weeks.

The first call from a citizen was made 10 days ago, and authorities immediately initiated an operation in the Medellin metropolitan area.

Intelligence work bore its fruits: Titi was captured in a Medellin apartment building in El Poblado neighborhood at 0630 on 30 December. He was visiting his wife and mother-in-law. The authorities seized a 9-mm pistol from him. They also seized a vehicle in a nearby parking lot. There were six long-range weapons, clips, cartridges, and a device to distort voices in the vehicle.

According to the authorities, Posada Valencia confessed to the prosecutor who interrogated him. He said he and Pablo Escobar Gaviria participated in the road block carried out several days ago on Medellin's Las Palmas highway. He also confessed that he delivered the car bomb that exploded on 24 December, killing two paid assassins, Tarzan and El Cucaracho, by mistake. He also confessed that he is El Chopo's lieutenant and that he owns the farm where police recently found 350 kg of dynamite.

'Dissident' EPL Leader Arrested

PA0301025993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0030 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Attention: The second man in command of the dissident guerrilla group Popular Liberation Army [EPL] was arrested on 2 January in Cartagena. He is Humberto Javier Callejas, alias Javier Robles, and he is charged with being the mastermind of the kidnapping of former minister Argelino Duran Quintero and several businesspersons from Santander. He was arrested thanks to information provided by a private citizen, who will receive 50 million pesos as a reward.

This is the second harsh blow the Army has dealt to the guerrillas in less than one month. Francisco Galan, of the Army of National Liberation [ELN] leadership, was arrested on 3 December.

According to the authorities, Humberto Javier Callejas is one of the brains behind the kidnapping and murder of former minister Argelio Duran Quintero and of Santander businessperson Beatriz Elena Turbay. He is also charged with murdering over 50 members of Hope, Peace, and Liberty, who were former EPL guerrillas killed in Uraba.

Born in Barbosa, Antioquia, he is wanted by the Ninth Court. He was interrogated on 2 January at the Bolivar Police Command. He will be transferred to Santa Fe de Bogota in the next few hours.

According to the authorities, Callejas is the right hand man of EPL dissident leader Francico Caraballo. His records show he is an old militant of the Communist Party of Colombia. After becoming a guerrilla, he maintained his operations center in the Atlantic coast area. Authorities said he is one of the organizers of the intimidation, kidnapping, and extortion campaign against the cattle ranchers in Cordoba and along the northern coast.

The military chief of the EPL dissident wing on the Atlantic coast and second in command of the guerrilla group was arrested on the morning of 2 January in a private home in El Bosque neighborhood in southwestern Cartagena. His real name is Humberto Javier Callejas, but he is also known as Javier Robles, Javier Callejas, or Javier Villanueva. The police reported they found documents in his possession that are related to the subversive group and that contained new terrorist plans for this area of the country.

The successful operation was carried out by National Police and Army soldiers thanks to information provided by a citizen, who will receive 50 million pesos as a reward. The authorities reported that Humberto Javier Callejas did not put up any resistance when he was arrested.

Security Authorities on Red Alert Status

PA0301185293 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1603 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Santa Fe de Bogota, 3 Jan (DPA) - Colombian authorities have declared a red alert in response to new threats made by the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB) in the wake of the recent capture of Javier Callejas, alias Javier Robles, one of the groups' leading ideologists.

Military garrisons and police stations were under special protection due to the likelihood of car bombs such as the one deactivated on 31 December. The car, which was loaded with 150 kg of dynamite, was found in front of the Antioquia Department (northeastern Colombia) Police Command Station.

There was also a false alarm on 2 January in a northern Santa Fe de Bogota Army garrison when a warning about another possible car bomb was received. However, it turned out to be a car parked by a Colombian citizen.

The state security organizations released the details of Robles' arrest on 3 January. According to the reports, Robles' real name is Javier Callejas, second in command of the pro-Maoist Popular Liberation Army (EPL), one of the member groups of the CNGSB. [passage omitted]

Army Says Reward Program Yielding Good Results

PA0301201893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0030 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] According to the Army, the reward offered for the capture of drug traffickers and guerrillas is yielding very good results. This week posters will be placed in supermarkets and on street corners and published in every newspaper to step up the campaign.

With the capture of Humberto Javier Callejas, second in command of the Popular Liberation Army splinter group, military authorities confirmed the success of the reward program offered for Colombia's principal guerrilla leaders.

The first rewards were offered for drug traffickers, but now the television announces millions in rewards to people who report the whereabouts of Father [Manuel] Perez, Tirofijo [Manuel Marulanda Velez], Francisco Caraballo, and other guerrilla leaders.

A second campaign will begin this week with posters being distributed throughout the country, published in the newspapers, and featured in television spots. Fliers offering rewards for the commanders of each guerrilla front will also be distributed.

A publicity campaign will begin in a few days that is aimed at reaching guerrillas without rank to show them the advantages of turning themselves in and reporting on their associates.

U.S. Personnel Build Base Against Trafficking

PA0401031693 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Dec 92 p1A, 12A

[Report by Jose R. Navia]

[Excerpt] Drizzle sprays the faces of 12 marines who are pointing their guns at the thick jungle that edges the muddy waters of the Guaviare River, Guaviare Department.

The jutting prows of six black piranha boats, followed by jets of stream, speed toward the river base that is under construction in a jungle clearing approximately 16 km from the city of San Jose del Guaviare.

As they pass a curve, the boats ease up on their 125-horsepower engines. Up ahead, the gray hull of the Colombian Navy vessel Ariari sways next to the landing platform. Further ahead on the yellowish soil, we see the machinery and tents of the hundreds of Colombian Marines guarding the site.

They are not the ones building the base. That is the work of 46 U.S. Marines known as the "Seabees." They arrived two months ago from Honduras, where they built a structure for military personnel.

The project is part of an assistance agreement with the U.S. Government for the war on drugs. According to river base commander Major Jose Munoz, the base will serve as a model for the building of similar infrastructures elsewhere in the country. The other bases will be built by Colombian personnel being trained by the U.S. Marines.

The river base, at a cost of $500,000, will consist of a heliport, hangars for patrol boats, ramps to raise the vessels, an equipment maintenance structure, lodging for 150 marines, a water well, sewage treatment plant, and radio communications equipment.

The six piranha boats, equipped with M-60 and .50-caliber machine guns, are part of the equipment. Most of the boat operations, however, have not been aimed at drug traffickers but at guerrillas, who attacked the patrols 10 times in less than four days.

Those attacks took place during operations to recover the ferry that links San Jose del Guaviare with Villavicencio. The guerrillas took the vessel approximately 5 km down the river from this city. According to the military, the guerrillas loaded the ferry with 200 kg of defused dynamite.

According to Maj. Munoz, four Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia fronts and one mobile column are operating very close to the river base.

The Navy officer feels these groups control the flow of drugs in the region. The main operations at the river base are aimed against them, in coordination with the Jose Joaquin Paris Infantry Battalion, located approximately 2 km from San Jose del Guaviare on the road to El Retorno.

Once the first phase of construction of the river base is completed next March, the U.S. Marines will return to their country. They will be replaced by a second contingent that will arrive on 8 October to finish the work.

The river base and the Jose Joaquin Paris Infantry Battalion were among the places visited in the middle of last week during a tour of six garrisons by Commander in Chief General Ramon Emilio Gil, Navy Commander Vice Admiral Hernando Garcia, and other Armed Forces officers. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Armed Forces Improvements

PA0401041993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0030 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Report by Juan Roberto Vargas; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The government's plan for this year is to reinforce the Armed Forces as much as possible. They will have more helicopters, more troops, and more fighter airplanes to face subversion and defeat violence. These are some of the resources they will have available on the ground and in the air.

[Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda] "The government's plan is to continue reinforcing the public forces. This means increasing the Army's antiguerrilla units."

This year, nine battalions and seven antiguerrilia companies began operations. Three new expert urban terrorist military police battalions began operations to control the country's major cities.

[Pardo] "There will be more rural police units to patrol the districts and precincts that now have no police protection."

The appointment of 5,000 new noncommissioned officers, and troop professionalization, will allow police privates or sergeants to become officers by meeting the requirements. The number of rural police stations will also increase.

[Pardo] "The 14 new Tucano airplanes have arrived. These planes have a double purpose as trainers and fighters. Tactical aircraft have also been delivered. In 1993 we will receive helicopters, which are perhaps the Armed Forces' greatest current need."

The Tucano planes will be used for training pilots and for combat missions. Two Bandeirante airplanes, used for transporting personnel, have also arrived. Another seven OV-10 Bronco planes, which are specially built for antiguerrilla warfare, will also be arriving. Three arrived this week and the other four will arrive in two months. Twenty-two new helicopters will be delivered to be used for combat and to airlift troops. The Tres Esquinas Air Base will be reactivated and improved.

Regarding the Colombian Navy, a new river patrol station will begin operating in San Jose Guaviare, with nine 40-foot river patrol boats with a range of 400 km. They will each carry rocket launchers and a nine-man crew. Buenaventura welcomed 14 coast guard launches, another 15 piranha gunboats, and two seagoing coast guard cutters to secure the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

[Pardo] "The country is grateful for the mission the soldiers serving in remote areas are carrying out. Everyone looks on each soldier as someone to respect and someone to thank for his sacrifice."

Authorities Seize Arsenal at Cali Residence

PA0301180493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0030 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Troops of the 3d Brigade discovered sophisticated weapons while conducting a search in a Ciudad Jardin neighborhood residence in southern Cali, where a perfectly normal private party was being held under a gigantic tent. It was not until the tranquil event was disrupted in a disorderly manner that neighbors informed the authorities who, upon arrival, found policemen guarding the house, and no one could explain why. [sentence as heard]

At the beginning of the operation, an attempt was made to bribe the soldiers. Omar Arnulfo Ramirez Libreros and Jaime Tovar Ochoa were then arrested. The soldiers seized AR-15 rifles, 9-mm Uzi submachine guns, pistols, .38-caliber revolvers, a large quantity of cartridges and ammunition clips, sophisticated communications equipment, and camouflaged weapons in the gardens. Here is what General Victor Arevalo had to say:

[Begin Arevalo recording] This was in the hands of an individual named Omar Arnulfo Ramirez Libreros, a politician who appears to be the owner of the mansion where we discovered these weapons, which are used exclusively by the Army, and where criminal activities are carried out that the prosecutor will resolve. [end recording]

So far the authorities have not dismissed the possibility of ties to the Cali cartel. The 3d Brigade command will continue its operations in southwestern Colombia, because this incident is a very good sign for 1993.

DANE Discloses 1992 Inflation Indexes

PA0301135693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Report by Patricia Uribe]

[Text] Although the national government did not achieve its goal of 22 percent inflation, it did record the lowest figures in the past three years.

The National Administrative Department of Statistics [DANE] has disclosed that the inflation rate was 25.13 percent in 1992, with food, housing, clothes, health, and education having the greatest impact on the cost of living.

The DANE report lists Barranquilla as the most expensive city in Colombia in 1992 with a 27.46 percent inflation rate, and Pasto as the least expensive with 22.94 percent. Here is what DANE Director Rodolfo Uribe had to say:

[Begin recording] [Rodolfo Uribe] Inflation has decreased by 7.32 points over the past three years.

[Patricia Uribe] What is the reason for that?

[Rodolfo Uribe] The government's economic policies. [end recording]

The cost of living increased by 0.74 percent in December, the lowest figure recorded in 10 years. The most notable price increases were on clothes at 1.75 percent and on housing at 1.50 percent. In the clothing area, inflation had its greatest effect on men's and women's shoes. With regard to housing, the increased costs affected leases.

[Begin Rodolfo Uribe recording] Prices increased the most on clothes, which have a low tax yield. The largest tax contribution came from housing with 50 percent; and within housing, public services; and within public services, power. [end recording]

The DANE disclosed that in December 1992 the most expensive city was Pereira, where prices increased by 1.53 percent, and the least expensive was Villavicencio, where they increased by 0.17 percent. The DANE believes Colombians' cost of living will decrease in 1993.

German Loans Granted for Infrastructure Projects

PA0301163293 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Dec 92 p 6a

[Excerpt] Rudolf Hommes, finance and public credit minister, and Heribert Wockel, German ambassador to Colombia, signed an agreement on 23 December for two credits from the German Government amounting to almost 29 billion pesos. The agreement was signed in the finance minister's office. Maria Emma Mejia, presidential adviser on Medellin, was also present at the ceremony.

Approximately 22.7 billion pesos will be designated for national infrastructure projects. The other 5.9-billion-peso credit will be used for the Comprehensive Program for the Improvement of Medellin's Substandard Neighborhoods [Programa Integral de Mejoramiento de los Barrios Subnormales de Medellin—Primed]

The largest credit, $22.7 billion, will be used to contract goods and services to benefit certain health projects, airport infrastructures, and special area programs.

In the health sector, hospital medical equipment maintenance, spare part purchases, and the implementation of an emergency ward network in the Aburra Valley will be financed through the National Hospital Fund.

Various airports in the country will be outfitted with security equipment through the National Aeronautical Fund with this same loan.

The German credits will also benefit the disaster attention reserve centers, which fall under the National Office of Disaster Prevention and Attention. [Oficina Nacional de Prevencion y Atencion de Desastres. [passage omitted]

Paraguay

President Rodriguez Dismisses Coup Rumors

PY0301020293 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 0050 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Remarks by President Andres Rodriguez to unidentified RPC Television reporters at his private residence in Asuncion on 2 January—recorded]

[Text] [reporter] Mr. President, will you please make some brief comments for RPC Television viewers on the situation the country is going through, the anguish the

people are enduring in light of persistent rumors of coups or self-inflicted coups, and about the statement issued by the U.S. Embassy on the country's situation?

[Rodriguez] Once again I want to reiterate and repeat to the Paraguayan people that they may stay calm, that they should be happy, that they should take advantage of this weekend by going out dancing, enjoying happiness and love. We must truly take advantage of these beautiful weekends we are having in these first few days of 1993. I would in no way like the people to refrain from enjoying this beautiful weekend because of rumors or speculation. I want to state once again that even though the U.S. Embassy has issued a statement, one must stop and think a little. Each of us must stop and reflect about our own responsibility toward our people. To this effect, we are thus perfectly aware that when we are among democratic countries and organizations, if we try to take actions such as coups, self-inflicted coups, and so forth-...[pauses] I do not know against whom we are going to plot a coup, because if you want to plot a coup there must be, as in boxing, someone who attacks and another who defends himself; or, as in fencing, one who attacks and another who holds the attack, or whatever, but there is no such situation.

You may thus rest assured that your president is confessing to you wholeheartedly that such a situation does not exist. Our people should not believe that there will be a coup, a countercoup, or a self-inflicted coup. Not at all. All we want to do is continue to consolidate the democratic life we opened for the Paraguayan people on 2-3 February 1989, so that our people may enjoy unhampered the freedom we obtained at that time.

We are sure that we will always be the calm guardians of the freedom the country is enjoying. The Paraguayan Armed Forces have this intention and the obligation to serve their people so that there may truly exist freedom, democracy, and tranquillity. The Armed Forces must today be dedicated guardians of tranquillity and security, and must give guarantees to the people, who have entrusted them with that responsibility.

[Reporter] Mr. President, many people believe that this situation is a result of the Colorado primaries. Do you think that could be right?

[Rodriguez] I sincerely believe that to this point we do not yet have any electoral results. I myself am waiting for the outcome of the elections. Yet what I can say is that I hold great admiration for the Colorado members in light of their civic behavior on 27 December, when they displayed exemplary conduct. We have set an example to friends and foes alike that we, too, know how to live in freedom and democracy, and that we will be able to elect those candidates we believe can be good rulers.

[Reporter] In sum, people can remain calm, as all these are simply rumors, and nothing is happening.

[Rodriguez] I repeat that these are just rumors, that the people can stay calm. I promise them that we will safeguard their tranquillity, that they should take advantage of this weekend, that they should take advantage of this beautiful night to dance, to sing, to shout, and to have fun with their loved ones. That is all I can say.

[Reporter] Thank you.

[Rodriguez] Thank you.

More Dismissal of Coup Rumors

PY0301204093 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 3 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Sweating and still dressed in shorts, President Rodriguez once again stated that the rumor of an alleged military coup was completely groundless, adding that he did not know where it originated. He said this at his residence in Las Carmelitas neighborhood shortly after returning from the Cavalry Division, where he was playing tennis.

He was told that the rumor became more reliable after the communique issued by the U.S. Embassy yesterday. When asked if he was aware of the source of such a rumor, Rodriguez replied: "I can assure you that such a thing will not occur (referring to a possible coup). I reaffirm that such a coup or self-coup will not occur. I will comply with my promise on 15 August."

Showing a frank attitude toward the journalists, Rodriguez said that the moment is drawing near for that to occur. He pointed out that he crosses out each date that goes by, and that yesterday he crossed out 2 January. He stated: "I already crossed out this date on my calendar; consequently, I am counting the days I have served the Paraguayan people so that they can really recall me as a person who has done his best for each citizen."

Rodriguez then showed his surprise at the communique issued by the U.S. Embassy, in which the current government is clearly warned of what will happen in case of a coup d'etat. He said: "I do not know why this communique was issued. I am really surprised by it."

He noted that the government is fully aware that any threat in this regard will prompt sanctions against Paraguay or it will be immediately expelled from organizations such as the Rio Group, the Common Market of the South, the OAS, and even the United Nations.

He said: "It should be recalled that a short time ago, the OAS representatives stated in Santiago, Chile, that if any OAS member perpetrates a coup or a self-coup to seize power, it will be expelled from the organization."

Therefore, Rodriguez once again stated that nobody will attempt to perpetrate a coup. He said he could promise this as an old soldier and as the president of all Paraguayans.

He said that for the sake of people this weekend should not be sacrificed. He stated: "We in no way want to tarnish it. Let's have people go dancing on 2 January to

shout, sing, and fall in love. People must enjoy love without fear of anything. This is our country's democratic life."

He then said that he will comply with the promise he made before all local and international forums. He said: "I will never fail to comply with my promise, and I am ready to transfer the presidential sash on 15 August to the citizen freely elected by the people."

Argana Supporter Dismisses Coup

PY0201170493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Diogenes Martinez, the Colorado Party's almost-certain leading candidate for senator, said on 1 January: "I do not believe there are suicidal antidemocrats." Thus, Martinez ruled out the possibility of an institutional self-inflicted coup in Paraguay resultinjg from the crisis within the Colorado Party. "Nobody would dare take this step" because it would plunge the perpetrators directly "into the abyss of oblivion and condemnation by the Paraguayan people."

Responding to questions about rumors of a possible coup d'etat in Paraguay, the prominent leader of Argana's faction answered: "I believe that it is totally out of the question because it would be a self-inflicted coup against democracy. Those who attack democracy nowadays must be suicidal, and I do not believe there are suicidal people among those who wield power in Paraguay."

Asked about General Lino Cesar Oviedo's remarks on the day the Colorado Party primaries were held and the rumors to the effect that that military officer may be one of the advocates of the self- inflicted coup, Martinez stated: "Not at all, because I know Gen. Oviedo, and he was one of the main architects of the new times we are living in. From the military point of view, he was probably the key figure. It is extremely unlikely that he will want to destroy his own work as the architect of these new times."

Martinez also downplayed the rumor that elements alien to the Colorado Party such as certain business groups may be advocating the self-inflicted coup because their faction lost in the primaries. "They have no chances or strength to take such a step, which would be suicidal for anyone who might try carrying it out. They will not be able to find anyone willing to jump off the cliff because that is what anyone who even thinks of attacking democracy will be doing," he said.

Martinez added that the Argana-Ybanez faction is aware that there are people who have accumulated fortunes since the 1989 coup d'etat and they are afraid of losing them. "I want to tell those people that we harbor no feelings of revenge nor do we plan to start chopping off heads. We propose reconciliation, not destruction," he emphasized.

Asked about the rumors that the U.S. Embassy may be aware of plans to stage a coup d'etat, the Argana faction spokesman said the United States would not support any attack against the democratic process. "I do not believe that support for democracy can be based on a coup or a self-inflicted coup. It is out of the question because our circumstances are different from, say, those in Peru," he answered.

When asked about the rumors that the self-coupists are holding talks with opposition parties to obtain their support, Martinez stressed that "this self-inflicted coup would not last 90 days. Its advocates and perpetrators would be the only losers. Thus, anyone with a brain in his head—and I believe that those who may be thinking about this coup have one—will not dare take this step."

Candidate on Possibility of Coup

PY0201140393 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] Deputy Julio Cesar Frutos, Gustavo Diaz de Vivar's running mate in the Colorado Party primaries, has said that the court petition filed by the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket to annul the Colorado Party primaries is part of an attempt to extend the present government term through a coup, or a self-inflicted coup, that will use the Colorado Party internal crisis as an excuse. Frutos did not reveal the names of those who allegedly are behind that possible course of action.

Frutos said the individuals preparing the coup must necessarily have the complicity or support of the U.S. Embassy.

Frutos said the candidate who lost the Colorado Party primary "is the prisoner of a group of people seeking a nondemocratic solution to the crisis and the rescheduling of the transition that began on 3 February 1989."

The deputy explained that the Constitution, through Article Four of the chapter on temporary provision, says that general elections must be held between 15 April and 15 May. Frutos added that the government already has called general elections for 9 May and that candidates must make their candidacies official by 9 March.

The deputy added that the Colorado Party could be left without candidates because a lawsuit usually means long and extended procedures and the party might be unable to register its candidate before 9 March.

The politician stressed: "Behind the lawsuit I see an intention to extend the present government's term. But then we would be violating the Constitution, breaking the central axis of the transition, and violating the legal order."

"Naturally all this makes people wonder. There are rumors supported by statements made by civilian and military agents that the candidacy of winner Luis Maria Argana will not be accepted," the deputy said.

Frutos stressed that not recognizing Argana's victory will break previous precedents when official candidates lost to the opposition. "But now the legitimate winner of a primary is not accepted. He has been vetoed. It has been said that if Argana won he would not become the Colorado Party candidate."

Frutos added that this would be the justification used by those who want to postpone the date of the national elections to 1994 or 1995 through a coup or a self-inflicted coup.

Frutos said the coup or self-inflicted coup "will be made in the name of the Colorado Party and supposedly to benefit it because the lawsuit would prevent the party from presenting a candidate." Frutos said that external forces, national or foreign, must not interfere in the party's internal matters, no matter the good intentions. "Colorado Party internal matters must be resolved by Colorados."

"I am sure that the individuals working in this anti-democratic project have the complicity of the U.S. Embassy. It would be unthinkable to stage a coup without that support. Therefore, it is very important for the embassy to make its position clear and calm down Colorado Party followers and the Paraguayan people," Frutos said.

The deputy added that if the coup, or self-inflicted coup, is carried out the government will lose its democratic status worldwide. "We will leave the OAS, the Mercosur [Common Market of the South], and we will rejoin the list of undemocratic societies."

Frutos said Congress will not support unconstitutional solutions, adding that such a move would result in strong confrontations among government branches. The deputy recalled that according to the new Constitution, the executive branch cannot dissolve Congress "and if it did it would be violating it and would have to face the consequences."

Frutos concluded by saying that it was a good time for the president to clarify the situation and calm down the population "by rejecting a possible coup attempt."

Opposition Leader Says Coup 'Foolish'

PY0201174593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Hermes Rafael Saguier, Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) deputy-candidate to represent the capital district, said he was aware of rumors of a possible coup d'etat and its possible variations, adding: "It would be very foolish."

The opposition leader said Luis Maria Argana is the worst possible option in the political arena today. "He is political rubbish, but a coup to prevent his proclamation as candidate for the Colorado Party will put him at the head of a movement to defend civilian institutions. It would be a brutal step backward considering the few steps forward we have taken toward democratization so far," Saguier said.

Saguier recalled that in 1972 Argana proposed Stroessner as president for life while the dictator was stealing, torturing, and denigrating the country. "That single fact disqualifies him to occupy any position in the administration, including that of a doorkeeper," Saguier said.

A coup at this time only seeks to ensure the continuity of those presently in power, not the preservation of democracy. "A coup would show that they are not concerned with democracy but only with their own interests," Saguier said.

"In front of a disoriented government that only knows that it has the tanks and it can kill people we have an even more disoriented opposition that could not define its position properly in 1989 and that was more concerned with destroying Colorado Party democrats than the latent Stroessnerism that remained in power structures," Saguier said regretfully.

The deputy-candidate said civilians believed the military could install democracy in the country but did not understand that democracy is the responsibility of civilians and it becomes consolidated when the military is subordinated to civilian institutions.

"For me, the fight against Argana is a fight that was postponed in 1989. I believe that democrats in the country can defeat Stroessnerism without tanks or planes. It will be enough if the military stays in its barracks. If Stroessner followers want to commit fraud or violate the rules of democracy, they will receive the punishment imposed by a people angry after 35 years of degradation," Saguier said.

"More than ever, we must consolidate our democratic institutions and tell all those who are corrupt and authoritarian that there is a political class in the country that is ready to work for a serious and respected country. This will be the end of all the Arganas who want a return of Stroessnerism and all Rodriguezes who want to continue in power," Saguier concluded.

Candidate Negates Possibility of Coup

PY0101013993 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 31 Dec 92 p 5

[Text] National Encounter presidential candidate Guillermo Caballero Vargas has categorically stated that he believes that there will not be a coup attempt in our country. He added that there is no room today for military adventures either in Paraguay or in other countries.

Caballero Vargas further stated that the theory of "a candidate handpicked by the ruling party" is no longer valid. He advocated paying no heed to rumors about a possible coup d'etat.

He went on to say that the wave of rumors about a possible coup, which have circulated in several circles over the last few days, causes much harm to the country because it tarnishes Paraguay's international image.

President To Meet With Argana After Tally

PY3112223792 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 31 Dec 92 p 9

[Text] "Once he is officially recognized as the winner of the primaries, I will have no objections to holding talks with [Luis Maria] Argana. I know that he has said he wants to talk to me, and there is no reason for me to refuse," Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez stated during a news conference held after the traditional year end greetings ceremony.

The president also acknowledged his links with and support for Juan Carlos Wasmosy's ticket in the primaries. "If people want to link me to that ticket, that is all right, because I am in favor of democracy. I have voted for democracy, not for other people, because I am afraid that these people may want to return to our dark past to even having Stroessner return," Rodriguez added.

"There are individuals who have been promising the return of certain leaders involved with the previous regime and the people will not allow this to happen. I cannot allow impunity to take root in this country either. If those people come back they will have to face the courts which will decide their fate," the president said.

The chief executive indicated that the court still has to rule on the [Colorado Party] primaries, because the final official result is not known yet. "The people who voted for Argana must have their reasons. However, we cannot talk about final results yet because one of the competing factions has filed a complaint," Rodriguez said.

The president also commented on the remarks of Diogenes Martinez, one of the leaders of Argana's faction, who had justified Stroessner's regime. "I can hardly agree with him (Diogenes Martinez) because I was the one who overthrew the dictatorship. He voiced a personal opinion which I do not share at all," Rodriguez added.

On the subject of the recently discovered files from the former regime, Rodriguez stated: "If the court asks me to provide trustworthy protection for these files, we will provide it day and night and double it if necessary, because these files contain very valuable documents. These documents will show who violated human rights, who tortured, the locations of the people who were arrested and are now missing, and many other things."

He reiterated: "These are very valuable documents, and if I were the judge entrusted with protecting these files I would not be able to sleep peacefully because of the enormous responsibility this implies. The government is prepared to safeguard these documents by providing the necessary protection."

Rodriguez added: "The discovery of these files is very important for the government because it will help us to find the criminals with the help of the courts."

The president justified the attitude of Police Chief German Franco Vargas who had at one point stated that he knew nothing about the files. "It is only natural for the chief of police to know nothing about this business because at the time he was in another department, but we can hardly blame him for this because as soon as the files were found he ordered his people to cooperate as necessary," Rodriguez stated.

Minister Says Argana Must Change Thinking

PY3112215392 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 31 Dec 92 p 14

[Text] Finance Minister Juan Jose Diaz Perez said yesterday that if Luis Maria Argana "becomes president of the republic he will have to change his speech immediately." He added: "Otherwise the international financial community will close its doors to him. An interventionist state like he (Argana) advocates no longer exists; what prevails is a completely open market."

Diaz Perez said that if Argana continues with his current theories he will be "completely out of step with the other Latin American countries. He must change his speech if he becomes president."

Diaz Perez indicated that with his current language Argana will necessarily be isolated from the other countries because his theories no longer prevail.

During his electoral campaign Argana harshly criticized the government's economic policy, saying it was responsible for the current problems.

Diaz Perez was asked about this issue after the dedication of the new facilities of the National General Comptroller's Office on Bruselas Street in our capital.

Colorado Party Crisis May 'Go on Indefinitely'

PY0201151093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] The Colorado Party internal crisis may go on indefinitely because the contending factions are prepared to resort to every acceptable recourse. While the party Electoral Board will rule on the request for the annulment of the primaries no earlier than the second week of January, [Luis Maria] Argana's faction promises to appeal to every legal recourse necessary.

According to Roque Elizardo Bobadilla Cataldi, chairman of the Colorado Party Electoral Board, the board will begin studying the "hefty file" submitted by the [Juan Carlos] Wasmosy faction on 6 January.

The parties involved were notified of the request for annulment by midmorning on 31 December and they have three working days to answer. This means they have until 6 January to answer. The Electoral Board will

be unable to issue a quick ruling because, according to Bobadilla, the amount of documents it must study is enormous.

The Argana-Ybanez ticket's legal representatives promised to resort to every acceptable recourse against the claims of the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket.

They explained that if necessary they will appeal to the party Electoral Board, the Metropolitan Electoral Court, and the Supreme Court of Justice against any rulings contrary to the will of the Colorado people expressed through the elections on 27 December.

If the disagreement is taken to court, the very minimum period of time the courts will need to reach a decision will push the new party primaries to early February, according to party sources.

Some Colorados, however, are beginning to talk about a political solution that could restore peace within the Colorado Party.

Candidates for the 1993 presidential elections may register through 9 March.

Party Board Chairman Reports Threats

PY0201140893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Jan 93 p 4

[Excerpts] Supporters of Colorado Party presidential hopeful Luis Maria Argana have threatened to kill Elizardo Bobadilla Cataldi, Colorado Party Electoral Board chairman, and his family. Bobadilla fully recognized the voice of the woman who called to threaten him on 31 December 1992 and has declared so before a public notary. The person who threatened him told Bobadilla to rule in favor of Argana's faction in the case involving the request for annulment of the Colorado Party primaries that the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket has requested. The case will have to be decided next week.

In the course of an interview at his residence in San Lorenze in the night of 31 December, Bobadilla said: "A woman whom I know and whose voice I fully recognized called me and asked whether I loved my family and my children, adding that if I did, then I should rule in favor of Argana. I simply answered that I would abide by the law and that she could be sure of that. She kept repeating, however, that I must rule in favor of Argana."

Bobadilla's wife, Rafaela Frizzola, told Radio Nanduti about the threats against her family.

Bobadilla reported that on 27 December, when the Colorado Party primaries were held, he received anonymous threatening calls at his residence. "I did not pay any attention to these calls but today (31 December) I was somewhat angered, and unfortunately my wife found out about all this and reported it to the news media. I was keeping it under my hat because I felt it was something I owed my party," he stated. [passage omitted]

Asked whether the threats had anything to do with the request for annulment of the primaries submitted by the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket, Bobadilla answered: "It obviously has to do with this request because the woman who called me today (31 December) told me so in as many words. The court will rule on the request for annulment next week."

Bobadilla added that the threat will not weaken his resolve as a member of the Colorado Party Electoral Board. "This is the wrong thing to do because I have fully proven my courage by openly fighting the dictatorship, and I am not about to surrender at this time in my life and at this position where fate and my party have placed me," Bobadilla said.

Police Forces Control Party Headquarters

PY0301222993 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 3 Jan 92 p 9

[Excerpt] [Luis Maria] Argana ticket coordinator Dr. Diogenes Martinez on 2 January said: "We will make the government responsible for any adulteration, change, or loss of the electoral records and documents of the recent elections that are stored at the Colorado Party headquarters." He said this in the wake of the police deployment in the building.

The number of police deployed in the area on 1 January was reinforced. The heavily armed policemen expelled employees at the Colorado Party headquarters.

Argana ticket supporters reported that even the night watchman was forced to leave the building, and Colorado Party Executive Board members such as Luis Castiglioni, Idilio Castiglioni, and Erico Gonzalez were not allowed to enter.

Martinez went to the headquarters and talked with police officer Atilio Ferreira, who is in charge of the custody. Ferreira said he was ordered to stay there and forbid the entrance of people, except for Colorado Party President Blas N. Riquelme and Elizardo Bobadilla Cataldi, Colorado Party Electoral Board chairman. Martinez emphasized that in light of this unusual deployment of forces at the Colorado Party headquarters the government will be responsible for the destruction, change, or loss of documents related to the 27 December elections. [passage omitted]

Voter Turnout Reported in Colorado Primaries

PY0101221093 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 30 Dec 92 p 4

[Excerpts] Of a total of 974,687 party members whose names appeared in the register of voters as qualified to cast a vote, 442,264 went to the polls. This figure shows there was a good turnout in the Colorado Party [ANR—National Republican Association] primaries amounting to approximately 45.4 percent. These are the figures released so far by the ANR Electoral Board as part of its unofficial count of elections returns from 246 electoral

districts. The returns from five polling stations still remain to be tallied, and the figures also reveal that 54.6 percent failed to vote. Excluding the capital city and the central area, in the interior of Paraguay 366,686 people cast their ballots for president and vice president of the Republic, representing 82.9 percent of total ballots cast (442,264 ballots). [passage omitted]

According to data gathered by the ANR Electoral Board, the Argana-Ybanez ticket obtained a total of 213,382 ballots; the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket obtained 187,354 ballots; the Diaz de Vivar-Frutos ticket garnered 24,993 ballots; and the Fretes Davalos ticket received 919 ballots. This was the vote count for president and vice president of the nation.

Rodriguez Reviews 1993 Economic Prospects

PY3112235292 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 31 Dec 92 p 9

[Excerpt] Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez said today that in 1993 the nation's economy will be fueled by international loans which began to come in in 1992. He explained that these loans will stimulate industry, help create new jobs, and further the country's development.

The president made these remarks at Government House this morning while evaluating the accomplishments in 1992 and the prospects for 1993. He said: "Next year we will have the opportunity to channel these loans toward the areas that most need them and to take the much awaited actions to further the country's development for which it is essential to make industrial use of our raw materials to give them some added value. Industrialization is the only way to create new jobs for our people."

Rodriguez stressed that nothing much could be done for the economy this year because of the lack of funds which will be abundant in 1993. "In 1993 we will be able to create better conditions for industrial development. We will help industries prepare for the opening and expansion of the market," he said. The president added that the industries will have to be prepared to receive the assistance that the government will give them for retrofitting and get ready to offer competitive quality and prices at international markets.

Rodriguez responded to the criticism of the Paraguayan Industrial Union by saying that he does not share the opinion of this union. "I would like them to take a look at what they used to receive prior to 1989 and compare it to what they are getting now," he emphasized. [passage omitted]

Peru

Rebels Kill Policeman; Police Deactivate Bomb

PA2912161192 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1332 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Lima, 29 Dec (EFE)—A policeman was killed on 29 December in Lima by a terrorist group and a car bomb was deactivated in front of a yeast factory located at kilometer six of the main highway at the Lima exit.

Policeman Felix Losa Nicho died at the hospital after four alleged members of the Maoist Shining Path shot him.

The National Police bomb squad was able to defuse a charge of 80 kg of dynamite and ammonium nitrate on the main highway.

A barrel containing 30 kg of dynamite and ammonium nitrate was also deactivated in front of the Peruvian-Soviet Cultural Institute located in Lima's Jesus Maria neighborhood. In Surquillo district, a bomb exploded at a branch of Banco de Credito causing only minimal damage.

The National Police have been on alert following the bloody 28 December attack in Lima and the terrorist wave of car bombs that started on 26 December. [passage omitted]

Rebels Attack Chontani, Cajamarca Department

PA3112192592 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Thirty Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] terrorists raided Chontani, Jaen Province in Cajamarca Department on the morning of 31 December. The rebels set documents and commissariat supplies on fire and took the policemen's weapons.

National Police captured two terrorists on the Central highway. The men were carrying explosives and subversive propaganda. They were taken to the Counterterrorism National Directorate for investigation.

Foreign Minister Rejects Terrorist Attacks

PA3112152392 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] In a communique, Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente has reiterated his condemnation of the criminal terrorist attacks that occurred in the past few days and expressed his solidarity with the victims. The foreign minister also rejected the terrorist attacks perpetrated against several diplomatic missions. He said he will continue to denounce these criminal actions internationally.

Government Recognizes Czech Republic, Slovakia

PA0301041893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] The Government of Peru has recognized and established diplomatic relations with the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The announcement was made through a Foreign Ministry communique which added that the two republics requested recognition from Peru, pointing out that as of 1 January 1993, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic no longer exists.

Yoshiyama Sworn In As New CCD President

PA2912202192 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka was sworn in as president of the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] on 29 December. He urged the new congressmen to join efforts for the reconstruction of Peru.

[Begin Yoshiyama recording, in progress]...as a commitment, not just to my party faction in the congress, but rather to all congressmen and to the Peruvian people. My thanks will receive a response and a commitment to join efforts for the reconstruction of Peru. I urge all my colleagues to join efforts to consolidate this authentic democracy. Thank you very much. [applause] [end recording]

These were the words of new CCD President Engineer Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka after his formal swearing-in in the presence of Mrs. Luz Delgado de Rubiones, representative of the Change 90/New Majority alliance.

After being elected by a broad majority, Yoshiyama was sworn in as the first CCD president for the 1992-93 period. Yoshiyama won the position with 60 votes in favor, 15 blank ballots, and 2 invalidated votes.

Afterward, Congressmen Carlos Torres y Torres Lara and Rafael Rey y Rey were elected first and second vice presidents, respectively.

On taking possession of his post, Yoshiyama gave thanks for his election and called on all the congressmen to join in a national effort to consolidate an authentic democracy.

Yoshiyama Constituent Congress Speech Viewed

PA3112021292 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1641 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Speech by Constituent Democratic Congress, CCD, President Jaime Yoshiyama at the CCD opening session at the Congress building in Lima—live]

[Text] Honorable gentlemen; representatives of international organizations; most excellent members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the country; Mr. President of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister; Messrs. Ministers of State; civilian, ecclesiastical, military, and police authorities, and citizens in general:

I wish to start my speech by thanking the Peruvian people, who on 22 November elected us as their representatives to the Constituent Democratic Congress [CCD], which we are installing today. This mandate makes us an independent and autonomous branch in relation to other branches, but not in relation to Peru and its people, whom we must always serve. [applause]

I cannot overlook or ignore my past experience as I assume the post of CCD president. I was minister of state, and as such, one of the protagonists of the national reconstruction process promoted by President Fujimori's government. [applause]

I was witness to the important developments that began on 5 April and the profound causes that led to them, which I will not mention, because I have no intention of talking about the past. Quite the contrary, I want to start thinking—with all of you who like me are representatives of the people—of ways to contribute to give Peru a dignified future.

We must, however, use my personal experience to make this CCD a branch of state committed to the comprehensive modernization of the country to overcome the crisis and build democracy. We must recognize that the accelerated process of change that the country has experienced since 28 July 1990 occurred outside the framework of the 1979 Constitution. After the events of 5 April, we proposed to maintain the 1979 Constitution until a new constitution is approved, with the exception of those articles that would render this phase not viable. There is no other way to reconcile reality with this structure.

In this CCD we must be equally pragmatic and realistic. [applause] We have fulfilled the commitment we made at home and abroad to restore democratic institutions. The people recognize this. The forms and procedures distorting the state branches and institutions, and not the essence and values of the democratic system, were what we questioned.

We are empowered to draft a new political constitution; to issue, improve, and repeal laws; to exercise political control and supervise state administration, and to assume all duties assigned to this CCD while keeping a balance of power that will uphold the democratic system.

This balance of power cannot be attained at the expense of the country. Balance does not mean that one branch has to neutralize the other. In addition to mutual respect, balance of power requires joint responsibility in solving our nation's great problems. We cannot for one minute forget that on 22 November the Peruvian people voted to get the Executive and Legislative Branches to work together for the Republic and to surmount any obstacles to furthering the country's best interests. [applause, three-minute break in reception]

We will, undoubtedly, agree unanimously when the time comes to decide on a constitution that will provide for the country's complete modernization. We all agree with this [words indistinct] of all Peruvians. [applause] [words indistinct] that will require our urgent attention.

One of them is to restore the autonomy of another state branch, namely the Judicial Branch. That branch remains under reorganization, since eight months obviously have not been sufficient. For that reason, I am proposing that we, the Legislative Branch, take up again the process that the Executive Branch began. We must

ensure that the administration of justice finds acceptance by guaranteeing it honestly and efficiently performs its duty, banishing corruption and the vices of the past, and placing special emphasis on creating the legal means to place justice within the reach of the people, chiefly the millions of Peruvians who lack the funds to gain access to this fundamental right. [applause] [words indistinct]

To perform immediately the priority tasks that lead to two of those objectives, the Executive Branch adopted an initiative, which in my opinion represents a good omen for the future course of its relations with this Congress. In making it possible for this state branch to resume all its functions, the Executive Branch decided that the directors of the Central Reserve Bank, the superintendent of banks and insurance, and the comptroller general of the Republic should tender their resignations so that these posts are subject to the review of this Congress. [applause]

Today, more than ever, the country needs a climate of harmony so that all of us who support the democratic system can do our best to defeat our major political foe: terrorism. All of us must consolidate in a responsible manner the gains achieved on the path to peace. We must not go back but move forward. [applause] [words indistinct]

Our objective is to turn Peru into a country attractive to foreign investors so they can bring us their capital and technology and, thus, generate jobs. That makes it urgent to change the country's negative image, something hampering foreign investment despite existing favorable legislation.

There is no doubt the progress we have achieved in the war on terrorism, the upsurge of action against drug trafficking, and, most of all, the fact we overcame the objections regarding the resumption of the democratic system will contribute in a positive manner. For the purpose of taking steps to improve this situation, we will submit for the consideration of the Congress the creation of a [word indistinct] support group that will show Peru's true face. To achieve that goal, we will take advantage of the climate of harmony, which I am certain we will create in this Congress, to summon friendly persons and institutions at home and abroad to form this group.

Congresssmen: Out of respect for the people who placed their trust in you by electing you, and based on a new definition of congressional duties, I urge you to eliminate the vices of the past: inefficiency, corruption, and frivolous oratory. Let us leave behind the intransigence and haughtiness that have [words indistinct] turning their backs on the Peruvian people's interests.

I also urge you to show in your parliamentary work that we can be efficient, honest, respectful, and tolerant of other people's ideas. Let us incorporate the lesson we learned from the country's [word indistinct] majority: Pragmatism, common sense, and unity. Let us make ours what popular organizations have taught us: Cooperation, solidarity, and realistic action.

Let us not forget, above all, what the people expect imperatively. They do not expect mere moralizing but objective and real moralization. [applause]

At this point allow me to reflect. When I was called to organize a government team in very difficult times, I accepted without hesitation because I wanted to serve my country. In my short time in public service, I have learned many important things that have strenghtened this commitment. One of them is that we cannot forget the examples set by popular leaders such as Maria Elena Moyano, who could not be intimidated. [applause] They could not be intimidated by the violence of the genocide of terrorism. They taught us that the people's best allies are solidarity and common action.

Despite our differences, I believe Pedro Huillca also fought for a new Peru. [applause] I also learned to respect and value the sacrifices of policemen, soldiers, and members of the peasant defense patrols, who in the fulfillment of their duties did not hesitate to offer their lives to defend our nation and society.

As I think of them, I also think of the thousands of innocent men, women, and children who were the victims of terrorist madness. It is our obligation to support the efforts of the population and the forces of order to eliminate, once and for all, the homicidal violence of terrorism and to restore the internal peace that we need so much in Peru. [applause] I beg you to observe a moment of silence for all the people I just mentioned. [silence]

I also learned that young people have the right to dream about a better future and we should work with them and for them to build a Peru full of opportunity. I learned that, aside from politicians who deserved popular rejection because of their inefficiency and immorality, there are also valuable parliamentary members, judges, and teachers who have imbued their actions with dignity and represent an example to be followed by all Peruvians. [applause]

I learned democracy is still the best government system to guide a society. But democratic institutions are not worthy per se; they are worth as much as they can produce. Only a real democracy can articulate the contributions of all groups to comprise a unity that is based on consensus, includes everyone, is coherent, and is consistent with a long-term national plan. I am duty bound to embark on this task.

To conclude, allow me to state: Let us eliminate the inflation of false promises and put an end to the recession of hopes for a better future. Let us not look back and open new wounds that can only hurt us. Let us look back only to rescue the values of our memory as a whole, the values that forged our national identity, and let us project them toward the future. Our responsibility, today more than ever, is to turn Peru into a modern and viable

country that offers many opportunities. Gentlemen, let us build that future together. Thank you. [applause]

Legislators on Yoshiyama's CCD Inauguration

PA3112190492 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Several legislators from different groups stated their opinions on the speech delivered by Jaime Yoshiyama, president of the Constituent Democratic Congress [CCD].

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What comments do you have after listening to the message from the new president of Congress?

[Congressman Julio Castro Gomez] I think Engineer Yoshiyama has made an effort to stress or defend, at least formally, as is the purpose of his presidency, the autonomy of the CCD. I reiterate, however, that his total support for President Fujimori's government makes it very difficult for the CCD to have a more independent and critical attitude.

[Henry Pease, Left Wing Democratic Movement] It has been a moderate ceremony, and I think the important thing now is for this Congress to have the autonomy and capacity to strengthen the democratic institutions, which is not an easy job, nor can it be done overnight. It requires a Congress that can exercise its sovereign power.

[Antero Flores Araoz, Popular Christian Party] I have seen a very conciliatory attitude, a very proper speech, looking mainly toward the future and seeking harmony among the various political groups to work for the country's welfare in a joint effort.

[Luz Salgado, Change 90] I have great hopes for the work this group of independent persons will do. There is now a better working spirit. We will make our best effort, and I think we will have very productive results in a short time. We already see some prospects in the rules for speeding up our work, getting faster results, leaving behind sterile discussions, and trying to think more of the country. That is what Engineer Yoshiyama has repeated in his message, calling on all of us congressmen to leave political and selfish positions aside and think more of what the country trusts we will do. [end recording]

Ecuador Police Report Capture of Weapons Shipment

PA3112033492 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] According to a police report issued in Guayaquil, Ecuador, weapons from Nicaragua, El Salvador, Germany, and even the former Soviet Union were transported through Ecuador, with the final destination being Colombian and Peruvian subversive and drug trafficking groups. The weapons destined for Peru were shipped into Bolivar Port, on Ecuador's southern coast. A 30-ton weapons shipment from the Ukraine was transported along that route. A network of German and Latin American drug traffickers with ties to the Peruvian guerrillas made the purchase.

The report added the operation had the support of a group of top ranking officers with ties to drug trafficking groups in Alto Huallaga. The shipments seized by the Ecuadoran police included SAM-7 missiles, rocket launchers, bulletproof vests, AK-47 assault rifles, M-16 rifles, grenades, and guns of different calibers.

Security Around Prison Island Lowered

PA0301034893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] The General Directorate of the Port Captainship and Coast Guards has issued a resolution that reduces the maritime security area around the islands of San Lorenzo and El Fronton.

On 29 May 1992, a one-mile security area—approximately 1980 meters—was established around San Lorenzo Island. Later another resolution was issued, reducing the banned area to 1,000 yards, in other words, 940 meters around San Lorenzo Island and 600 meters around Callao Island, also known as El Fronton.

The modification was made following the arrest of Abimael Guzman and his transfer to San Lorenzo Island, where he is currently serving his sentence.

The official daily on 2 January published a resolution that points out that navigation, fishing, and any sports or recreational activities are banned as of 2 January in an area 400 meters around the two islands.

Casual fishermen, who for a long time have been demanding a reduction of the security area, are very pleased with the measure. But they are not completely satisfied.

[Begin unidentified fisherman recording] We are insisting that the General Directorate of the Port Captainship and Coast Guard respect the supreme decree issued in 1974. As I said earlier, this decree allows us to work around 200 meters near San Lorenzo and El Fronton Islands. That is what we fishermen are going to struggle for until we achieve it. [end recording]

De La Puente on 'Purge' at Foreign Ministry

PA3112201592 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] The government has carried out a genuine purge at the Foreign Ministry by dismissing 117 officials, including ambassadors, minister-councillors, advisers, and secretaries in accordance with the new law for diplomatic service.

Oscar de la Puente, president of the Council of Ministers, believes the measure is necessary, whereas former Foreign Minister Javier Arias Stella said he is worried by it.

The decrees on the Republic's Diplomatic Service Law and the Foreign Ministry basic law establish, among other points, the reduction of the age limit for ambassadors' retirement from 65 to 60 years. In accordance with that disposition, 14 ambassadors were dismissed, in some cases retroactively.

Luis Marchand Stenz, first foreign minister of the current regime and long-time diplomat, is among those who were dismissed. Also dismissed were Felipe Valdivieso Belaunde, Raul Pinto Alvarez, Luis Sabogal Perez, Jaime Cacho Souza, Luis Machiavelo Amoroz, Edgardo De Javich y Palacio, Maria Salazar Castellanos, Jose Pablo Moran Val, Augusto Salamanca Regalado, Miguel Varandiaran Varandiaran, Mario Pareja Lecaros Enrique Arevalo Alvarado, and Edgardo Otarola Salcedo.

Nine ambassadors were retired in the application of Law Decree 25-889. The list includes former Foreign Minister Alan Vagne Tison, Jaime Caceres Enrique, Carlos Gonzalez Ugarte, Jorge Chavez Soto, Julio Vega Erausquin, Juan Alvarez Vita, Carlos Higuera Ramos, Alfredo Ramos Suero, and Jose Antonio Garcia Belaunde.

Ambassador Jose Guzman Herrera was dismissed for having fulfilled his time of service.

Diplomatic officials dismissed for the same reasons include 23 ministers, 15 minister-councillors, 14 advisers, 27 first secretaries, 10 second secretaries, and 4 third secretaries.

Even though this purge, the largest in the history of the Foreign Ministry, is aimed at restructuring the Peruvian diplomatic service, the measure has been criticized by some who claim it follows political criteria and leaves out first-rate diplomats, thus having consequences for Peru's foreign policy.

[Begin recording] [Javier Arias Stella] This worries me because the Peruvian diplomatic corps has stood out for its professionalism for a long time in Latin America. I think that curtailing human resources in such a specialized field is not good for national interests.

[Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente] The process of reorganizing the Foreign Ministry and the diplomatic service is within the framework of everything that has happened in the government institutions. There has been a rationalization of personnel in all ministries and institutions and the entities have been restructured.

Therefore, what has been done to the diplomatic service is neither new nor an isolated case, it is part ...

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] What is the rationale for the dismissals?

[De la Puente] It is not something invented overnight to bring on dismissals. A mechanism has been established, the Foreign Ministry's basic law has been changed, the size of the diplomatic service demands modernization and overall coordination among the state branches and their institutions. Neither the Foreign Ministry here in Lima nor the foreign service can be left out of this process.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[De la Puente] The rationalization also includes incentives for voluntary resignations, age limits, and other reasons that have all been taken into account in planning the new foreign service, and in the coming days we will hold a news conference on our country's new diplomatic service. [end recording]

Government Dismisses Judicial Officials

PA3112201692 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Several top-ranking magistrates have been dismissed from the judicial branch, including two nonvoting members of the Supreme Court and the judge who had been elected president of the Lima Superior Court.

The dismissed officials include two nonvoting members of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic: Judge Jose Antonio Silva Vallejo, who was president of the Constitutional Court of the Supreme Court, and Judge Wilmer Bacca De La Sota, member of the Criminal Court of the Supreme Court. Civilian nonvoting members of Lima Court—Carlos Saponara Miyigan, Cesar Humberto Tineo Cabrera, and Miguel Vega Maguino—were also removed from the judicial branch. Vega Maguino had been elected by the Lima Superior Court plenary as president until 1995, in accordance with the new basic law of the Judicial Branch.

It was reported that Lino Roncalla, current president, will continue as president for a maximum term of 60 days until his replacement is elected.

Lima civil judges Guillermo Aguado Sotomayor, Maria Valencia Cayirgos, and Irene Chavez Gil were also dismissed.

Antonio Padilla Lletes, Teddy Terrones Latorre, and Ramon Bravo Lopez were dismissed in the Loreto Judicial District, while magistrates Noel Lopez, Carlos Castaneda Cubas, and Linda Vanini Chang were separated from the La Libertad Superior Court Department.

Military Coupist To Face Public Trial in Jan

PA3012124492 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The military members involved in the 13 November uprising will face a public trial in January. This represents an event without precedent in military

history, it was stated by Rear Admiral Vicente Duboc Veza, chairman of the Supreme Council of Military Justice [CSJM].

The CSJM's work had remained unnoticed by most of Peruvians, who had no knowledge of its existence, until this year. The organization now has a great responsibility.

The most important date this year for Rear Adm. Duboc Veza is 12 August, when President Alberto Fujimori issued Decree No. 25-659 declaring traitors to the homeland to be terrorist criminals who should be tried by this court.

A total of 82 terrorists have been tried since that date; and some of the cases will be reviewed, it was announced by CSJM Chairman Duboc Veza.

[Begin recording] [Duboc Veza] We are working on this number of cases, more or less, but we will readjust it because the number must be confirmed by the CSJM. Sentences can either be confirmed or revoked. We have come across some mistakes in the procedures; we have transferred some cases to civilian courts; and we have also acquitted some people.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Duboc Veza] This is the most difficult phase because it was simple enough to try the [Shining Path] leaders. We must now try Shining Path members who use different names. The witnesses' versions are incorrect many times and this complicates things. [end recording]

Regarding the trial of the military members involved in the coup, the rear admiral announced the phase for the gathering of evidence has concluded and the case must now be turned over to the military prosecutor, who will decide whether he files the case or whether it merits a trial against the accused—who would face a public trial. This case has no precedent in CSJM history.

[Begin Duboc Veza recording] We will enforce justice according to the facts and it will be done in public trials. The trials will possibly begin in January and you will be able to learn about the declarations given by all the people involved; you will be able to hear their testimonies; and you will be able to have a better opinion about the cases. [end recording]

'Emergency and Reconstruction' Government Ends

PA0101041893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori spent the last day of 1992 working privately at the Army headquarters, while there were rumors—as always at this time of the year—of alleged changes in the cabinet. While on the outskirts of the Armas Plaza, the people were coming and going, occupied with the holidays, on 31 December, the Government of Emergency and Reconstruction came to an end. Thus was established Decree Law 26-153. As of 31 December, the task of issuing laws and of controlling the executive and the judicial branches will be in the hands of the Democratic Constituent Congress.

Meanwhile, there are many decree laws that must be issued. These will be published over the 2 January weekend, although they will be dated before 30 December. Most of these decrees deal with economic issues aimed at introducing important changes in the government's economic policy. These changes were announced by President Fujimori during his visit to [name indistinct] in Ayacucho.

As far as the changes in the cabinet go, the departure of Justice Minister Fernando Vega Santa Gadea is still pending. Vega had expressed his wish to leave the government in November, however, he was asked to wait till year's end to receive a reply to his letter of resignation.

Government Approves 1993 Annual Budget

PA3012191792 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The government has approved the law of the republic's 1993 annual budget, which totals over 10.813 billion new soles. The budget is to go into effect in January. The law outlines austerity measures for expenditures by public organizations.

The total amount budgeted for the public sector in 1993 is 10,813,992,924 soles. Of this sum, 9,124,260,000 is income to be received from the public treasury. Another 7.54 million is described as internally generated revenue [ingresos propios], 1,645,810,181 soles are to come from loans, and 36,382,743 soles from grants [transferencias].

This law is binding upon organizations of the three branches of the state, regional governments, decentralized public institutions, and all other public agencies. Under the law, public organizations must observe disbursement restrictions in preparing their budgets. In the area of salaries, they will not be able to make appointments or personnel reassignments of any kind, or grant wage increases, with the exception of personal and family bonuses and promotions to positions that are already budget allocated. In the area of goods, services, current disbursements, and capital expenses, the organizations may not contract for permanent nonpersonal services, purchase vehicles for the transportation of personnel, or contract for services in foreign currency. In the area of transfer allocations, they are forbidden to finance goods for official service abroad, or for services outside the republic.

In addition, a special provision forbids the administration of self-generated income for nonappropriated purposes, the making of advance or provisional payments of wages, bonuses, or pension, or the extension of advance compensation for time in service.

This law, which was published in EL PERUANO on 30 December, will go into effect on 1 January 1993.

Uruguay

President Lacalle Decides on New Cabinet Members

PY3012192692 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0830 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] It has been confirmed that OSE [State Board of Sanitation] director (Manuel Romalle) will be sworn in on Monday, 4, as the new housing minister.

President Luis Alberto Lacalle has decided to keep Juan Andres Ramirez at the head of the Interior Ministry.

Sergio Abreu will also be sworn in on Monday as Uruguayan foreign minister.

The name of the new national defense minister will be disclosed next week.

Government Authorizes Regular Aeroflot Operations

PY3112163092 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 24 Dec 92 p 11

[Text] The government yesterday authorized Aeroflot to operate regular international passenger, mail, and cargo air transportation services between Moscow and Montevideo and vice versa, with stopovers in Malta and Isla de la Sal.

In agreement with the defense, foreign, and transportation and public works ministers, the president of the Republic approved a resolution implementing the aforementioned authorization.

Article No. 1 establishes: "The Aeroflot-Soviet Airlines company is hereby authorized to operate regular international passenger, mail, and cargo air transportation services between Moscow and Montevideo and vice versa, with stopovers in Malta and Isla de la Sal."

Article No. 2 points out: "The terms under which the authorization mentioned in Article No. 1 will be implemented will conform to the legal framework mentioned in the explanatory section of the current resolution."

Article No. 3 establishes: "Let it be known and submitted to the Air Force General Command for its information. It is so ordered."

Venezuela

Minister Denies Rumors of New Coup Attempt

PA3112193192 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Zaida Pereira report]

[Text] Defense Minister Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez has said there can be no peace of mind when rumors are circulating. He stated, however, that such rumors are no more than mere speculation.

The defense minister said there has been no attempt at nor is there any possibility of a new coup attempt in Venezuela. He also denied that three officers have been arrested for planning a new coup attempt. The minister said such rumors affect all levels of our society, and even have a negative effect abroad. As an example, he noted that a Mexican radio station announced on 29 December that Caracas had been militarized due to a new coup, a report that is unfounded.

[Begin Jimenez recording] There is a very strong wave of rumors under way. We are trying to stop it, to contain these rumors, because they definitely destabilize the country. Inspector Suju Raffo called on the evening of 27 December to see if I had really been kidnapped, because prominent people had called to tell him of a very insistent rumor to that effect. Such a rumor does great harm to the country. [end recording]

The defense minister added that the rumors also harm the Armed Forces. He said investigations are under way to identify those who start them.

President Has Support on Constitutional Reform

PA3112212692 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Several legislators have agreed with President Carlos Andres Perez' position that the amendment to the Constitution should be postponed until 1994, when there is a new political leadership.

Because of the ambiguous political situation and the problems that have emerged in discussion of the amendment, President Perez proposed that the issue be deferred to the next Venezuelan congress; that is, until 1994. Deputy Paulina Gamus and Senators Pedro Paris Montesinos and Hilarion Cardozo agreed. Differences emerged, however, when the time came to outline positions regarding approval of the fiscal laws, and with them, the establishment of new taxes. While the Democratic Action Party would approve these laws, the Social Christian Party has called for further study.

[Begin recording] [Montesinos] As for the constitutional reform, I agree with the idea. I had already said that 1993 was not the right time to proceed with the amendment, and that it should be left for the congress that is elected in 1993, which might present a different political spectrum. This would help to make it possible for those who become members of the congress to clearly and firmly state their positions regarding changes to be made in the Constitution.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you agree with President Perez on the approval of the fiscal laws next year, even though it is an election year?

[Cardozo] Well, that issue is under discussion. We might believe in the need to amend those laws, but the substance of the changes needs to be discussed further.

[Gamus] I believe that it must be another congress, with constituent powers—even if it were not a constituent assembly—that approves constitutional reforms. As for the fiscal laws, I agree that the country is facing a very serious fiscal crisis and that it is necessary to reach an agreement. Several fiscal laws have already been approved by congress, but we must reach an agreement on that package of fiscal laws that will allow us to improve our economy and head toward a more sincere economy which would make the country more solid in every respect. [end recording]

Thus, the confusion continues, because unless the taxes for next year are approved, there will continue to be a fiscal gap, reflected in greater indebtedness for the Venezuelan Government.

Coupists at Garrison 'Fear For Their Lives'

PA0301180093 Paris AFP in Spanish 1625 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Caracas, 3 Jan (AFP)—The soldiers arrested for their involvement in the 27 November coup attempt, the second experienced by President Carlos Andres Perez' government in 1992, have said they fear for their lives, the prisoners' relatives reported in Caracas on 3 January.

The families and lawyers of the soldiers detained at the San Carlos Garrison in downtown Caracas also charged that there is an alleged plan by the authorities to set up an escape by the coupists and thus justify acts of violence against them. As part of the "simulated" plan, authorities heightened surveillance at the garrison on 31 December.

Soldiers involved in the 4 February coup attempt are also being held at this downtown Caracas jail, which was intended to hold political prisoners.

Currently an extraordinary court martial, the constitutionality of which is being studied by the Supreme Court of Justice, is trying 240 persons charged with involvement in the 27 November coup attempt.

Caracas Mayor-Elect Refuses To Be Sworn In

PA0301135793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Caracas Mayor Aristobulos Isturiz was not sworn in as scheduled on 2 January because his party [Radical Cause Party] decided he should not accept the post until the situation of all councilmen is resolved. At a ceremony attended by the foreign minister, prosecutor general, U.S. ambassador, Sucre and Chacao mayors, and the federal district governor, Isturiz said he would leave the case in the hands of the church and the Prosecutor General's Office because the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] refused to answer his party's request for a vote recount.

[Begin Isturiz recording] Mr. Prosecutor General, since you are the guarantor of legality, I formally make this request of you: I would like to place this problem in your and the cardinal's hands. I want you to convene the CSE so I, my faction, and my party can do something that is perfectly legal within a de jure state: that is, file an annulment appeal. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Guyana

Hoyte Declares State of Emergency in Party

FL0201144693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1328 GMT 2 Jan 93

[By Urrell Wilkinson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 2, CANA—Guyana's opposition leader, Desmond Hoyte, has declared a state of emergency in his People's National Congress [PNC], where some members want to have him impeached and removed as leader. A party source said Hoyte made the move late Thursday after discovering the plans to unseat him. The move comes against the backdrop of plans for a legal battle over his selection of candidates for Guyana's 65-seat National Assembly (Parliament).

Hoyte invoked a special clause under the party's constitution which vests him with emergency powers. The opposition leader has now assumed the powers of all the decision-making bodies of the opposition party, which ruled Guyana for 28 consecutive years before its October 1992 general election defeat.

"This clause has never been used before in the party's history," an official who requested anonymity told CANA. "It is reserved for a genuine case of emergency and I suppose he can consider this a genuine case."

The move came hours after newspapers here front-paged a letter from four long-standing PNC activists calling for Hoyte's impeachment, removal as party leader for allegedly breaching the party's constitution in choosing his parliamentary list. The four activists were unhappy at Hoyte's dropping of PNC deputy leader and former Prime Minister Hamilton Green from Parliament. Green, who, with his 13 years in the National Assembly is the PNC's longest serving parliamentarian, resigned his party post in early December after acknowledging "philosophical differences" between Hoyte and himself.

A former top PNC member said Hoyte also used his new powers to dismiss three senior PNC members, including former minister of fisheries and Georgetown mayor, Robert Williams. Williams was the chairman of the party's Georgetown district, its largest.